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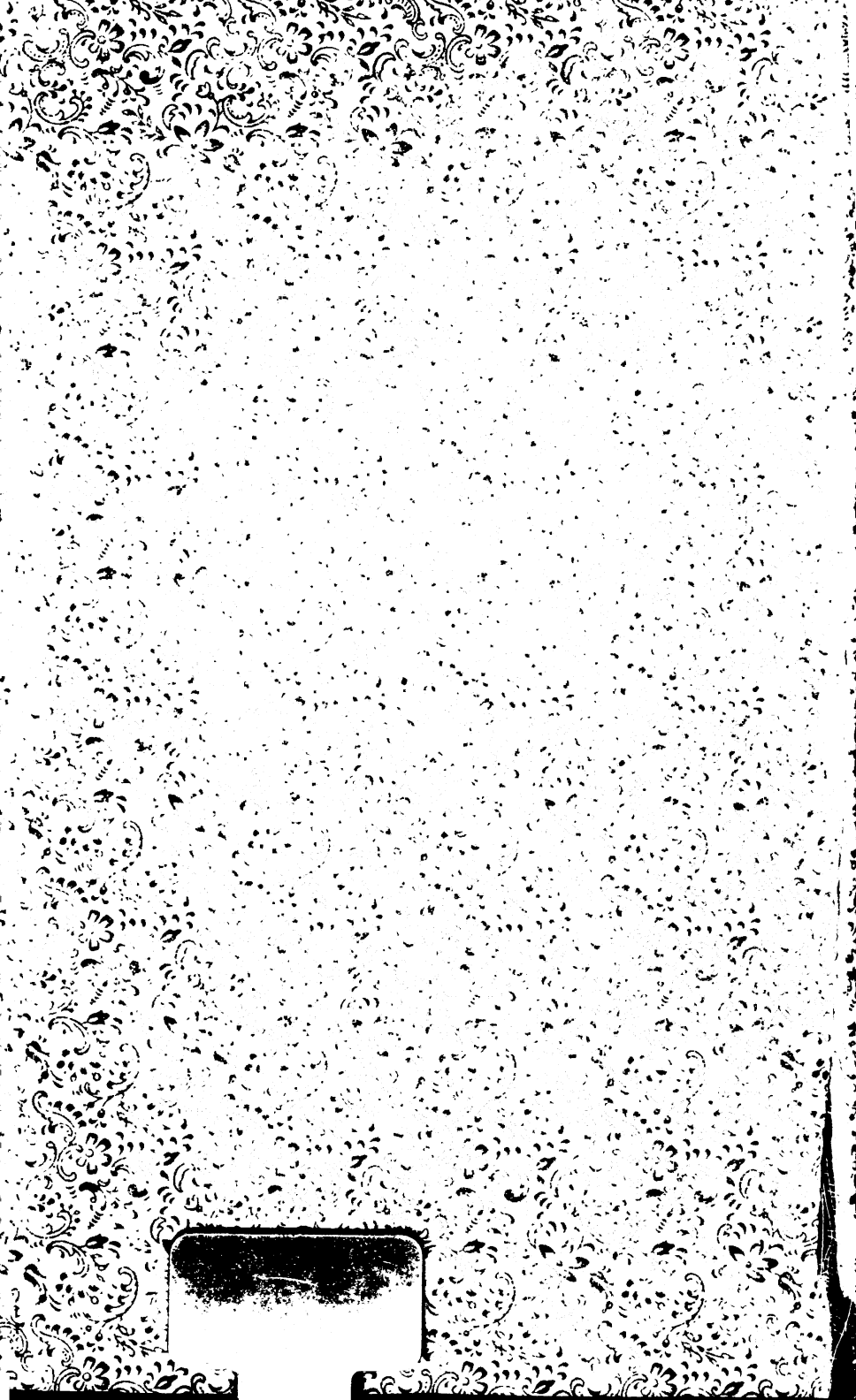

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Sir Samuel Auchmuty Kt.

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NOTES

ON THE

VICEROYALTY OF LA PLATA,

IN

SOUTH AMERICA;

WITH

A SKETCH OF THE MANNERS AND CHARACTER

OF THE INHABITANTS,

COLLECTED DURING A RESIDENCE IN THE

CITY OF MONTE VIDEO,

BY A GENTLEMAN RECENTLY RETURNED FROM IT.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A HISTORY OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE BRITISH TROOPS IN THAT COUNTRY, AND BIOGRAPHICAL AND MILITARY ANECDOTES OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN THE DIFFERENT EXPEDITIONS.

In florid beauty groves and fields appear,
Man seems the only growth that dwindles here.
* * * * * *
For as refinement stops, from sire to son,
Unaltered, unimproved, the manners run. GOLDSMITH.

ILLUSTRATED WITH A PORTRAIT, MAP, AND PLANS.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR J. J. STOCKDALE, 41, PALL-MALL.

1808.

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PREFACE.

To the late important and long pending trial the eyes of the nation have been turned with eagerness and impatience. In its termination every individual has felt interested. It has now ended, and at the disclosure of such a disgraceful succession of disasters, by which, through incapacity and misconduct, a stigma almost indelible has been affixed to the British name, the public mind is filled with indignation and rage.

The magnitude of the national loss seems increased in a tenfold degree by reflection on the manner in which that loss was sustained. The event of the trial has stamped universal conviction of the ease with which a conquest might have been obtained by proper measures, and of the incalculable advantages that have been so madly relinquished.

At this moment, while these events are recent, and the curiosity of the public so strongly excited by whatever relates to the interesting country we have left, it may not, perhaps, be necessary to apologize for the publication of the following pages. As there seems to be an expectation that an object of such importance to the commercial relations of Great Britain, is not entirely abandoned, we are encouraged to hope that the last effort has not been made.

With this impression the following sketches, gathered during a short residence in the country, are offered to the indulgence and candour of the public.

They are doubtless too imperfect to meet the severity of criticism; but some of the observations will, at least, have the recommendation of novelty.

The world knows little of the manners prevalent among the inhabitants of South America, and trifling anecdotes will often convey a more accurate idea than elaborate description.

If in expectation of finding in this little work any learned investigations or uncommon remarks, the philosopher should be induced to peruse it, he will meet with disappointment; and the fastidious critic will probably consider it as too insignificant for his notice or censure.

Should it, however, afford to the majority of readers the smallest degree of amusement or pleasure, the author will not regard his labour as entirely wasted.

The author of the "Notes on La Plata" acknowledges with pleasure that he is wholly indebted for the "History of the Expedition," to the zeal and industry of some well informed friends.

The plans in illustration of the whole will be considered of value not only by the reader, but also by those who may hereafter visit the important territory which they accurately delineate.

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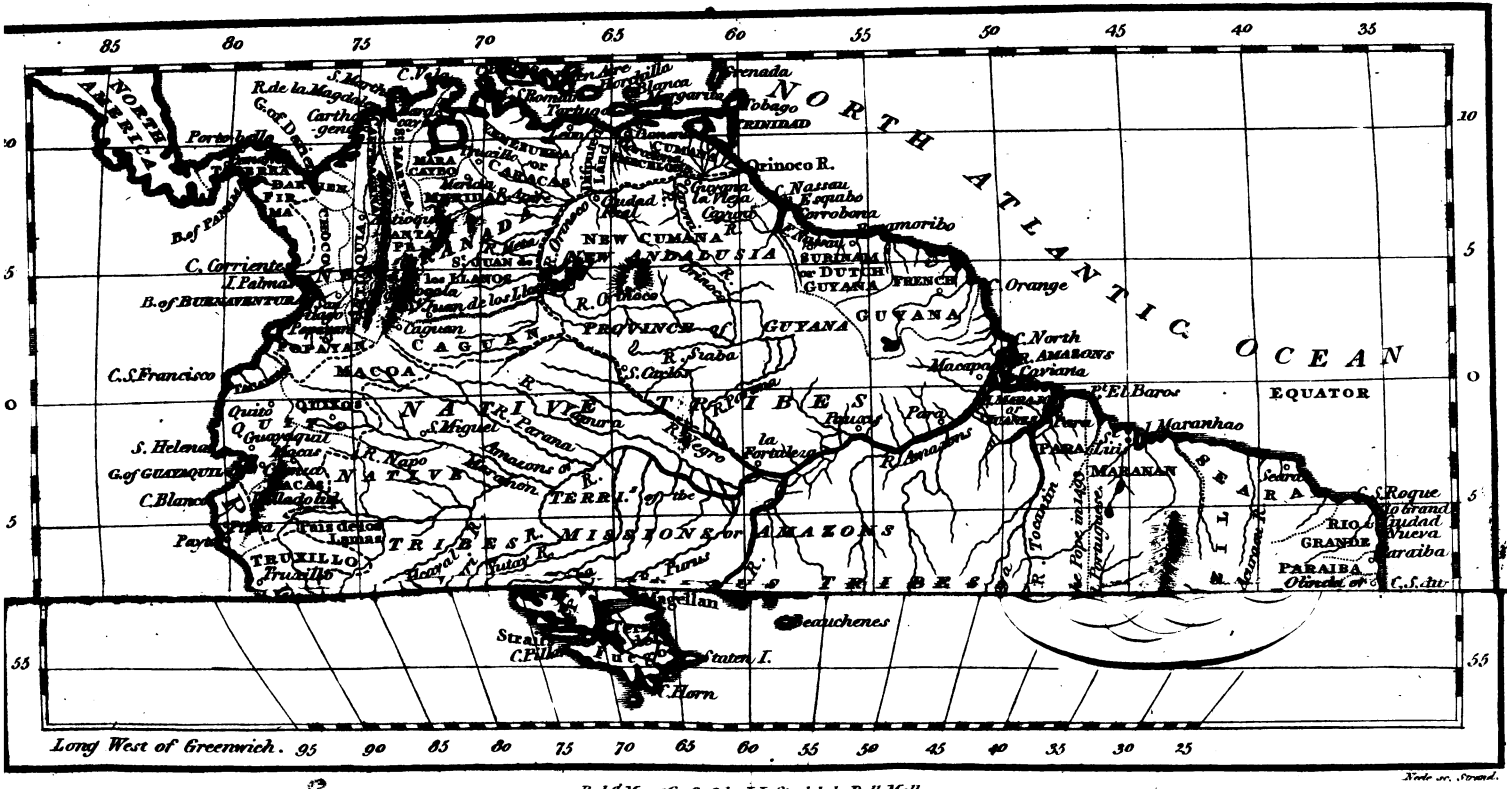

Pub.d May 16. 1808 by I. I. Stockdale Pall Mall.

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NOTES

ON

THE PROVINCE OF LA PLATA.

THE Viceroyalty of La Plata comprises an immense extent of territory, watered by the vast river from which it is named, and from the tributary streams. Of these fertile and delightful regions but little is known. Many stimulated by thirst of gain, have traversed them for purposes of commerce: but they have seldom or never been explored by travellers from motives of curiosity, or for the promotion of science. Mines yet remain unmolested and unknown; and the exhaustless stores of botanical and mineral knowledge contained in the unexplored recesses of this immense continent, are left for fu-

ture ages to develope. It cannot be presumed, from the scanty gleanings I have been able to collect, that much will be added to the stock of information. These few particulars thrown together for private amusement, and to beguile the weariness of an idle hour at sea, may possibly be thought trite, uninteresting, and trivial. If however, from these imperfect sketches, some idea of the nature, manners, and customs, of this interesting country be gained, feeble as the pictures may be, my object will be accomplished.

The greater part of this province is an immense plain that stretches to the base of the Andes. There are, however, in the interior, many lofty and mountainous tracts.

The Rio de la Plata, or River Plate, is formed by the union of a number of lesser

tributary streams. Among them are many that exceed in magnitude, most of the chief rivers of Europe.

The Parana is the most important. It proceeds from the country northward of Rio Janeiro, and is swelled in its course through a mountainous region, by several smaller rivers. One of those that contribute to augment it is the Paraguay, a stream which rises in the north, and receives, previous to its junction with the Parana, a large river called the Pilcomayo, originating in the vicinity of Potosi.

The Vermego and the Salado which spring from among the Andes, and the Uraguay, a river surpassing the Elbe or the Rhine in size, also empty themselves into La Plata. The Uraguay river is interrupted in its course by several rapids. Two hundred leagues from its mouth, so

great is the breadth, that it cannot be crossed in an hour; and before its union with La Plata, the opposite banks are so distant, as not to be discernible at the same time.

Compared to this vast and celebrated river, the mighty streams of the ancient hemisphere dwindle into insignificance. It has not however, a depth proportionate to its grandeur of breadth, and vastness of extent. The channel is narrow and serpentine, and the river shallow. From this circumstance, the navigation has always been esteemed difficult and dangerous. The English have however, proved by experience, that it is not in reality so perilous as they had apprehended. The danger was possibly magnified by the Spaniards from ignorance, or more probably from those narrow motives of policy, by which their government has ever been actuated.

The river, at the mouth, is about a hundred and fifty miles in breadth. As high up as Monte Video, where it is greatly diminished, the land cannot be discovered from the centre, nor can the eye distinguish it from the immeasurable ocean. At Buenos Ayres two hundred and ten miles from the mouth, it is forty miles broad.

The principal danger to which vessels are exposed in this river, arises from the violent and furious winds which blow from the west. In order to resist them, it is necessary for ships to throw out all their anchors, and to secure them with chains of iron. These winds blow chiefly in the winter season, and are called *pamperos*, from the plains of Las Pampas, across which they come. These plains commence about twenty leagues to the westward of Buenos Ayres, and extend to the

foot of that ridge of the Andes, which is the barrier of the province of Chili. In this direction they stretch about three hundred miles, and fifteen hundred south toward the savage regions of Patagonia. They are extremely fertile, and covered throughout their vast extent with lofty grass and the richest clover. Under this luxuriant and protecting shade, the innumerable herds of wild horses, bullocks, ostriches, and other animals that range the wilderness, find shelter from the scorching rays of the sun. They are destitute of trees, and their only inhabitants are fierce and savage nations, which rove about in troops, and often attack the adventurous traveller. There is no wood or eminence on these plains to check the violence of the wind, nor the smallest obstacle to oppose its fury; and its impetuosity is so much increased when it reaches the river, that the waves are elevated to a

great height, and the whole surface of the waters swelled and agitated like the ocean. Without taking proper precautions, ships are often liable to be destroyed by their turbulence.

The *pamperos* are much more frequent in winter than in any other season, though they sometimes prevail in the summer months. They blow with a steady violence, and their approach is preceded by storms of thunder and lightning. While the wind continues the sky is always clear, and the weather invariably fair.

The harbour of Buenos Ayres is rendered unsafe by the prevalence of these winds: and even in the Bay of Monte Video, which is considered the most secure anchoring place in the river, ships often meet with accidents.

At Monte Video the water of the river has not sufficiently lost its saline taste to be fit for use. Fifty miles higher up, it is perfectly fresh, soft, and palatable, and is the only water drank by the inhabitants of Buenos Ayres.

The climate of this country is serene and delightful. The summer commences in the month of December. The heat during this season is great, but seldom oppressive. It is tempered by refreshing breezes that almost invariably spring up towards the middle of the day. The greatest inconvenience experienced in warm weather, is from the swarms of flies and other insects that infest the air. Snow never falls in the winter, nor is the cold ever so severe as to freeze the ground. Rains are frequent, and accompanied by lightning and thunder, that are indeed terrific.

The richness and fertility of the soil can be paralleled in no other part of the globe. The fields are clothed with perpetual verdure: their bloom is never nipped by the icy blasts of winter, nor their beauty destroyed by the parching rays of the summer's sun.

Every fruit that flourishes in the temperate countries of Europe, or in the warmer regions of the tropics, attains here the highest perfection. Exotics usually become diminished in taste, and insipid in flavour; but transplanted to this genial climate, they preserve every quality and every luxury of their native soil.

The inhabitants of this country seem insensible of the blessings they enjoy from the lavish hand of nature. They pass their lives in listless indolence, without knowing how to appreciate such advan-

tages, or without capacity to use them; and they are too inactive to cultivate the earth more than is absolutely requisite for the calls of nature. The peasants are little better than savages; wild, fierce, uncooth, and buried in the grossest ignorance.

The fruits and productions of Europe, though originally introduced by the discoverers and first settlers, have now become spontaneous, and grow wild in the fields. So rich is the soil, and so inexhaustible its richness, that a continued cultivation of the same spot for twenty years in succession without the aid of manure, does not in any degree diminish its fertility. The plough is an instrument unknown; and from not knowing the want of manure, the natives are ignorant of its use.

Vegetables are equally fine and abundant as the fruits of the earth. The only one which does not grow to perfection is the potatoe. This is by some ascribed to the excessive richness of the soil; whether justly or not, I am not enough skilled in agriculture to determine. It loses its excellence after the second year, becomes changed in shape, and acquires an insipidity of flavour. There is a potatoe of the country which is long, and has an unsavoury sweetness. This is said to have been originally the Irish, and it somewhat resembles that of Carolina, but is much inferior. Instead of planting the whole potatoe, as is customary with our farmers, they only put the top, or as it is commonly called, the apple, into the earth; and it is not improbable that this may contribute to its degeneracy.

The vast plains of this country are co-

vered, from year to year, with the finest clover, which grows spontaneously in the richest profusion. On the banks of the river there are a few trees, but otherwise the country is for many leagues bare, and neither woods nor forests are to be seen till you approach the borders of Paraguay and Peru. This circumstance appears extraordinary, in a country where the soil is like a garden, but it is probably owing to the prevalence of those violent winds of which I have just spoken.

To the serenity of the climate, the rich and wild luxuriance with which the earth is perpetually covered, may be attributed the prodigious increase of grazing animals, that run wild on the plains, and traverse the country in such countless herds, as to darken the horizon, and reach beyond the limits of vision.

In the interior of North America, and in almost every new and uninhabited country, the enterprising settler has obstacles to encounter apparently invincible by human efforts, and such as nothing but the most persevering industry and laborious patience could ever enable him to surmount. Years are often spent in ceaseless exertions ere he can level the forest or soften the rugged earth, before the spot around him begins to assume the features of civilization.

But here the prodigality of nature has given to man regions which scarcely ask the aid of cultivation. It is a mortifying spectacle to see them in the possession of a people whose energies are torpid, and who, from their own laziness, suffer these fertile fields to become desolate in despite of themselves, and to rot in their own luxuriance.

Besides the herds of wild cattle, horses and dogs, there are leopards, cougars, panthers, tigers, lions, and several other species of wild beasts, which resort to the borders of the river. Of all these beasts of prey the tiger is the most terrible and dangerous. He is said to be in his nature more fierce and savage than those of Senegal. The lion of this country does not exceed, in size, an English mastiff. In form and nature he is not however different from that of Africa; and in strength and courage he even surpasses the tiger.

Ostriches, and almost every species of wild fowl known in the other parts of the world, abound here. The plumage of the birds is beautifully variegated. There are many kinds unknown to naturalists, and of which no description has consequently ever been given.

It is a remarkable circumstance, and one more proof, perhaps, of the distinguished manner in which this happy soil has been favoured by nature, that no vipers or venomous reptiles are to be found in any part of this fertile province.

Of the city of Buenos Ayres, as I had not an opportunity of visiting it during my residence in South America, I can give no account from personal observation. It was settled in 1578, and is the capital of the whole province. The name implies the salubrity of the climate. It was formerly under the jurisdiction of the viceroy of Peru, and is now, in point of size and commercial importance, the second city in South America. The environs are adorned with a great number of gentlemen's villas. Their gardens abound in fruit trees and aromatic shrubs, and the fields around the city are beautiful

beyond description. It contains about 70,000 inhabitants, and is the residence of a viceroy and bishop. The streets of the city are regular, and it has a noble square, adorned with elegant and splendid edifices. In front of the square on the river stands the citadel. The opposite bank of La Plata is not distinguishable. Buenos Ayres is exceeded only by Lima, and is the great mart of the commerce of Peru.

At the entrance of the river on the northern bank is the village of Maldonado. It is pleasantly situated, a mile from the sea, and contains about 200 houses and 1,000 inhabitants. The houses are low and mean. A little garden is attached to each, which gives an agreeable and lively appearance. A new church has recently been erected in the Spanish style of architecture. Oranges, nectarines, lemons, peaches, figs and other

fruits, abound here in the same profusion as in other parts of the province. The Island of Lobos, so called from the multitude of sea-wolves that infest it, lies near the village.

Excepting the mountain of Monte Video the only high land on the river is in the vicinity of Maldonado.

The city and fortress of St. Philip, or, as it is commonly called, Monte Video, was established about eighty years ago. The number of inhabitants is estimated at 20,000. An unsuccessful attempt was made by the Portugueze, about thirty years since, to wrest it from the hands of the Spaniards. Until its capture in February last, by the English army, under the gallant Sir Samuel Auchmuty, it has, since that period, remained quiet and unmolested. This city may be reckoned the key of

the Spanish dominions. It is erected on a point of land, or peninsula, at the extremity of a spacious bay. The mountain which gives name to the place is on the opposite side, and presents a fine object from the town. It is very lofty, rising from the water with an easy and beautiful slope. It is the highest land in the province. The view from the summit extends as far as the eye can reach.

The town of Monte Video is built on a rock, and is capable of being rendered impregnable. The citadel stands on the land side between the two gates. Below the citadel, towards the bay, the works are bomb-proof, but are not yet entirely completed. At the other extremity of the town is the fort of St. Joseph, which, though small, is very strong.

The circumference of Monte Video, within the walls, is between two and three

miles. It was the original intention, when the city was founded, that its walls should have embraced a much larger space than they now contain. This design was frustrated by a circumstance of individual jealousy and revenge, which will convey no bad picture of the Spanish character. A gentleman had erected an elegant house near the extremity of the town, but within the space marked out for its limits, and where it was determined the walls should be built. The engineer, who came out invested with the royal authority to superintend and construct the fortifications, was this man's bitter and inveterate enemy. At the sight of his splendid mansion the envy of the architect was excited, and his slumbering hatred awakened. Stimulated by his malignant feelings, he did not scruple to sacrifice his own honour and the public good to the gratification of his revenge. To effect this, he

contracted the original limits of the city, and so built the walls as to shut out the object of his envy. The circumference was by this means reduced to its present state: and a large extent of ground allotted for the city was thus excluded.

The streets are all perfectly strait, intersecting each other at right angles, and are wide enough to admit three coaches abreast. The houses, for the most part, consist only of ground floors. They are built of brick cemented with mud, and on the outside mortared and white-washed. The roofs are flat, and surrounded with a kind of parapet, so as to form a complete fortification. In this place every man's house may indeed be said to be his castle. The mode of defence adopted at the attack on Buenos Ayres was the wisest measure on the part of the Spaniards that could possibly have been chosen, each house being

so constructed as to form a strong defence against the invader.

In the cool of a summer's evening, or as soon as the fervor of the sun has abated, the ladies walk on the tops of their houses to inhale the refreshing breezes that blow from the river. The houses are floored with brick universally, the most elegant as well as the meanest. Many of them are covered with straw carpets; and, in winter, with skins of the leopard, or the softer fur of the Llama. The English have partially introduced among them the use of woollen foot-cloths. There are neither stoves or fire-places in any of their houses: of course, the walls being extremely thick, they become very damp and uncomfortable in the winter months, when the weather is generally wet and raw. The only method which they adopt to keep themselves warm during

this period is by the use of *brateros*, or pans fixed in a wooden frame which they bring into their rooms filled with charcoal: around this the whole family hovers at the hazard of suffocation.

Glass windows are uncommon, except in the principal houses. That monument of the national character by which every Spanish town is distinguished is equally conspicuous here, the windows being all defended by thick gratings of iron, which occasions to the street a sombre appearance, and gives every house the aspect of a prison. Most of the houses that are more than one story from the ground are ornamented with balconies.

Their dwellings are by no means remarkable for being decorated with taste or elegance. There is a *plentiful lack* of furniture to be discovered every where. The

walls of their apartments are seldom adorned with either curtains, prints, or paper-hangings, and most of them are even destitute of plastered cielings or cornishes. They are not often ornamented with any thing more than two or three old-fashioned tables, one of which generally bears a crucifix, or has a paltry picture of the Virgin suspended over it. Indeed, images of the Virgin, the Saviour, and Saints of all denominations, are seen in great profusion. These representations are not the most flattering, nor do they convey the most devout ideas to an heretical imagination. A dozen or two of antiquated, cumbersome, leather-bottomed, high backed chairs are ranged round the room with great care, and mathematical precision as to their equi-distance. They are wisely kept for show, and by the rules of the family are never to be removed from their places. In one of these unweildy machines if the unhappy

visitor plants himself in hope of finding repose to his weary joints, his case is indeed desperate: for rest he shall seek in vain. While pent up in a chair of this description, I have often sighed and involuntarily soliloquised in the pathetic words of Cowper—

"But restles was the chair; the back erect,
"Distress'd the weary loins, that felt no ease;
"The slippery seat betray'd the sliding part
"That press'd it, and the feet hung dangling down,
"Anxious in vain to find the distant floor."

The English have introduced furniture more modern, and they are just beginning to open their eyes to improvements.

All the houses are so built as to form a square area or court-yard in the interior, surrounded by the sides of the house. Some have three or four. The yard is paved like the floors of their rooms with flat stones or bricks. In the centre is a large cistern into which the water collect-

ed on the *azotea* or flat roof is conveyed by pipes. This rain-water the Spaniards use here generally, and prefer to any other. A large stone jar stands under the shade in the corner of the yard, and is kept filled for immediate use: thus it becomes clear and cool before it is drank. It is sweet and pleasant, and preferable to the fountain-water, which is daily brought into town from outside the gates by *aguateros*, or water-carriers, who distribute and sell it to the various inhabitants of the city who are not otherwise supplied. The ground upon which Monte Video is built is so rocky that no wells have ever been dug. At a short distance beyond the walls, there are three or four streams of water which are conducted into reservoirs made for the purpose. It is taken thence by the *aguateros*, who convey it in an immense hogshead fastened on wheels and drawn by two or three yoke of oxen. In

these brooks are washed all the dirty clothes of the city.

The female slave, as often as the *washing-day* comes round, mounts her steed with the bag behind her, containing the foul linen of the family, and thus accoutered sallies out to the brooks. One can never go out of the gates without encountering troops of black wenches, infantry as well as cavalry, crowned with buck-baskets. I do not believe that the water receives much additional sweetness from these ablutions.

The court-yards are adorned with tubs and flower-pots filled with the various shrubs and plants of the country. At the sides, raised about two feet from the ground, are beds of earth, in which orange-trees, lemon-trees, and grape-vines are planted. There is usually a frame suspended across

the roof for the support of the vine, which gives a shelter, and in the summer season forms a delicious shade with clusters of grapes hanging down. The senses are thus refreshed, and the air delightfully cooled and perfumed by the fragrance. Under this shade the morning and evening is usually passed, and the dinner-table often spread in sultry weather. Beneath the covert of these vines the men spend their hours in conversation and smoking. The women at their needles, thrumming the guitar, or taking their favourite *maté*.

To the use of this herb the inhabitants are universally and immoderately addicted. It is not entirely confined to the natives of the country, but strangers, and those from Old Spain, after living some time among them, become equally fond of it. It serves them for breakfast, the use of tea, coffee, and chocolate, being uncom-

mon in families. They seldom take any thing in the morning besides this herb; which they drink as soon as they rise, and at all hours of the day, frequently even at their meals. They never eat until they have first refreshed themselves by sucking their beloved beverage.

The manner in which it is taken is not perfectly consonant with European ideas of delicacy. Instead of drinking it as we take tea, they put the plant into a calabash, sometimes mounted with silver, and pour boiling water upon it: many prefer it mixed with sugar and milk. The vessel out of which it is drank is called a *maté*; from which the same name is also vulgarly given to the plant. The real name however is *Paraguay*, as it is chiefly produced in that extensive province. A globular cup or goblet of silver placed on a high stand of the same metal, is commonly

made use of among the richer class. Hot as it is, and it is usually enough so to scald the tongue of an European, they drink it, summer as well as winter, the instant that the water is poured in from the kettle. The infusion is sucked through a silver tube. The end which is put into the cup is swelled into a bulb with a number of small holes perforated through it like a strainer to keep the floating fragments from coming through. The liquor is thus drank without swallowing the leaves of the plant. A whole family or a large party is supplied from the same bowl and with the same tube. They suck, one after the other, as it is passed from hand to hand, far from considering it a breach of decorum, and without any of those sentiments of repugnance with which an European is usually infected. After the liquor is drank by one, a second infusion of hot water is poured upon the plant that remains in the

cup, for the use of another. This is often repeated five or six times without adding a fresh quantity of the herb, which retains its strength and taste for a long while before it is exhausted. The use of this plant is universal, being confined to no class. The slave drinks it as well as his master, and usually out of the same vessel too. The taste is not unpleasant, and when mixed like tea it is very good. From the manner in which it is drank, I did not get much addicted to it.

This famous herb is thought by the natives to be endowed with a great number of medicinal virtues. I do not however imagine that its good qualities are so numerous as is said. Were credit given to their assertions it would be a sovereign remedy for every disease. It is without doubt a strong diuretic, and the leaves when outwardly applied to wounds are

extremely efficacious. The leaf is in shape somewhat similar to that of the orange. Immense quantities of this plant are sent annually into Peru, and exported from Paraguay into all other parts of the Spanish dominions.

The streets of Monte Video are all called after the different saints. Upon the arrival of the English they were numbered. It is but a few years since names have been given them, and the inhabitants scarcely know one from another. Their only method of directing you to a particular place is by its proximity to the citadel, the cavildo, the square of bull fights, or the residence of some one of their great characters. They are well lighted, but badly paved, and I do not know any thing for which they are more remarkable than for the immense companies of rats that traverse them at night in all directions. Their

forces are so numerous, that they keep Grimalkin himself in awe. A cessation of hostilities and treaty of amity has accordingly been entered into by the opposite parties. It is now very usual to see the cat lying down with the rat, and these ancient enemies sporting together with the utmost cordiality.

The shops here have no signs or emblems to distinguish them from the adjacent houses, with the exception only of coffee-houses and barbers' shops. The latter of these are designated by one of those brass basons suspended over the door which the redoubted knight of La Mancha has immortalized by having worn as the helmet of Mambrino. A Spanish barber unites in himself the three professions of surgeon, shaver, and dentist. The operation under the hands of one of these sages is somewhat singular.

I once underwent it, and the impression it made is not yet wholly *wiped* off. The patient is fixed in the chair, and the bason, in the edge of which is a place cut out for the purpose, is fitted to the throat. The head is in this manner pinned or pilloried against the back of the chair, not entirely without danger of strangulation. The beard is then moistened with warm water, and instead of lathering the face with a brush, the operator takes a piece of soap out of the bason, which, with much gravity, he rubs several times over the countenance. After this ceremony, the beard is taken off in due form. I was not so much enamoured of the operation as to wish a second trial. It is not easy to conceive a more ludicrous figure than is made by the subject while under their hands, or more awkward sensations than those a stranger feels at his first essay.

At the corner of every street is a *pulperia* or wine shop, where wines and spirituous liquors are sold. The consumption of ardent spirits here is very great. A regulation was made by the English General, limiting their number to a hundred. Before this took place, there were three or four times as many. The wine chiefly drank here is Catalonia; which, tasteless and disagreeable as it appears to us, is preferred by them to the choicest Claret or Madeira.

There are several coffee-houses in this place, but generally indifferent. The chocolate sold there is very sweet, made very thick, and brought in a tumbler, with a plate of toast. These houses are frequented by many of the inhabitants, who now and then indulge themselves in a breakfast more substantial than *maté*. The Spaniards are naturally abstemious,

and what an Englishman considers a very moderate breakfast would be regarded as an ample meal for three or four of their countrymen. A little tea-cup of chocolate, in which he soaks his solitary slice of toast, is as much as any one ever takes. They seemed to view with wonder the voraciousness of an Englishman, who was not always satisfied till he had seen the bottom of two or three tumblers and devoured a proportionate quantity of toast and eggs.

The market of Monte Video is very excellent. It abounds with every species of meat and poultry, and is supplied from the river, with a great variety of fish.—Beef is very fine, and, when properly killed, but little inferior to English. A whole ox may be bought for a dollar; a sheep generally for half that sum. There is a great disproportion in the price of

different articles which appears surprising to a stranger; as much is often given for a pair of fowls as for a yoke of oxen. The Spaniards spoil the meat by their manner of killing it. There are neither butchers' stalls nor tables in the market. After they have stuck a knife into the animal's throat, it is skinned on the ground, and a leg or shoulder cut off, as called for. Oftentimes, when a particular piece of meat is wanted, the animal is killed, and after cutting out the desired part, without taking off the skin, the remainder of the carcase is thrown to the dogs, or left to rot in the streets.

So prodigiously have cattle multiplied, that the proprietor of a bullock for the sake of the hide, will give the carcase willingly to any one who will take the trouble of killing it. Almost every animal is fed on beef; from this circumstance,

pork and poultry bought casually in the market, and which have not been purposely fattened, are tinctured with *a very ancient and beef-like* taste. Vegetables and fruits are cheap and very abundant. Melons, oranges, lemons, nectarines, figs, pears, apples, peaches, &c. are as delicious as any region of the earth produces. The grapes of this country are even said to surpass those of Italy in size and flavour.

Here are a great number of billiard tables, and the inhabitants are much addicted to gaming. It is very usual on entering a shop, to see a customer adjusting his accounts on the counter with a pack of cards.

The public buildings are in no wise distinguished for splendor or magnificence. The principal and most conspicuous edi-

fice is the church in the great square of the city; it has two cupolas in front, and an elegant dome covered with glazed tiles; in the interior the appearance is very handsome; the walls are ornamented with a few paintings, and the niches are filled with several well carved images. There are no galleries, and the roof is supported by four ranges of Doric pillars, which reach from the floor to the arched cieling. All the decorations are handsome and simple, without any appearance of gaudy finery. This church, as we learn from a Latin inscription over the door, is dedicated to St. James and St. Philip, the tutelar saints of the place. It is under the direction of a vicar, who has several secular assistants or curates. After the capture of Monte Video, this edifice was converted into an hospital for the wounded English, and was extremely well adapted for this purpose, from its airy si-

tuation. The pious vicar manifested no small degree of horror at this heretical metamorphosis. It is however imagined that nearly as many lives were saved by keeping it, as there would have been souls, had the remonstrance of his reverence been attended with success.

In front of the church, on the other side of the square stands the Cavildo, or capitol. The first story is the only part yet completed. It is built of cut stone, and according to the plan which is to be seen in the hall, will have a very good appearance when finished. On the west side of the square, there is still remaining an old convent called *La Matriz*. It was erected by the Jesuits, and occupied by that order till their expulsion. It is the oldest church in the place, and is now very shabby, and not to be distinguished from the adjacent houses.

Mass is still said there, though no longer used as a convent, by three or four secular priests, who make it their habitation.

Near the centre of the city is a convent of Franciscans. It is a neat airy building in outward appearance, ornamented with a cupola, and has a small court yard in front of the door. The number of monks residing in it does not exceed thirty.

The good monks of this convent were almost the first acquaintance I formed on my arrival in the city. As I was one morning strolling about the streets, I took the liberty of going in. On entering into the inner court yard, I saw several of the holy fathers sitting at the doors of their cells, underneath the piazza. They were amusing themselves with

drinking *maté* and smoking. On approaching them, I made my obeisance, and asked if a stranger might be allowed to enter? They were very civil, and willingly undertook to gratify my curiosity, by conducting me to the chapel and other parts of the convent. They offered me *maté* which I declined, not feeling a strong inclination at the moment to suck after the good fathers. I was led into the chapel by two of the monks, one of whom, as we were entering, took occasion to observe, that he was of Irish descent; his father who had lived several years in Monte Video having been born in that country. He told me that his name was Campbell, but this they have *espagnolized* into Campana which signifies a bell.

Much cannot be said in praise of the interior of the chapel. It does not correspond with the external neatness.—

The floor is paved with flat stones, and like the great church, is without seats. It is long and lofty; the walls are bare and whitewashed. In lieu of cornices there is a strip of blue paper, gilt at the edges, which is cut into a paltry kind of festoon, and is a miserable specimen of tawdry splendour and patchwork finery. Opposite the front door, at the farthest extremity, stands the principal altar. There is an organ over the entrance, and three other altars on each side of the chapel. Over one of them is an image of Jesus Christ suspended on the cross, carved in wood and admirably executed. A vast profusion of virgins of all dimensions salute the eye in every quarter, together with images of St. James, St. Dominic, St. Francis, and a host of other worthies whose names and histories I have not the happiness at present of recollecting. One figure I remember of

St. Benito, who appears to have been of African parentage. The pillars surrounding the chief altar, and indeed all that part of the chapel are gilt, and present a finical and gaudy appearance.

The good monks went round with me to view the different paintings and images. They were kind enough to inform me of their several names and titles, and to give me the history of their various exploits while on earth. This was to me as may be supposed, a very entertaining, useful, and instructive piece of information. They had previously asked me if I was acquainted with them by sight, and expressed no small degree of astonishment at my answering in the negative. Their wonder was still increased on learning by my answers, that I had never heard of them before. Father Campana asked me if the catholic religion was not established in

England? He did not seem perfectly to comprehend me when I replied that the religion of England was the Protestant. He inquired if they worshipped saints, if they believed in scripture, if they said mass, if they had convents, churches, priests, if they confessed and received absolution? On hearing the answers I gave, Father Campana and his companion expressed great astonishment: they seemed to consider it a very singular kind of religion, and but little different from paganism. In the course of conversation, on my mentioning that the principles of the church of England were founded on the Lutheran, which was prevalent in most parts of Germany, one of them observed, that I laboured under a mistake; this could not be the case, as he was very certain that the catholic religion was the only one allowed there; and that the whole German empire, as well as the continent

of Europe, was in subjection to the pope of Rome. I did not deem it worth my while to enter into an argument on the subject.

While I was standing like Richard III. between these "two reverend fathers," a pious matron approached with the utmost reverence and humility, and presented each of them with a dollar. In doing this charitable act, which she concluded would procure her a safe conveyance into the other world, she appeared not to be conferring, but soliciting, a favor. The men of holiness gave their daughter a benediction, and deposited the earnings in their pockets.

The dead are interred beneath the floor of the chapel; according to the price paid, preference as to the spot is given: as many feet as one can get his body placed

nearer the altar, so many leagues less will his journey be made through purgatory. Those who are not rich enough to purchase a grave within the walls, are buried in the court-yard before the door. The poorer class are under the necessity of letting their bones lie in a large burial place adjacent, called the *Campo Santo*.

Bodies are usually interred without a coffin. The dying man generally requests in his will to be buried in the holy garment of a monk: if this has been accidentally omitted, his pious children seldom fail to purchase one of the fathers, who always have enough to dispose of. An old is preferred to a new one, as it is supposed to have imbibed no small portion of sanctity from the monk's shoulders. This dress is said to be the most fashionable travelling habit worn in the other world, and incapable of being scorched by the flames of purgatory.

They for this reason—

"————to be sure of Paradise,
"Dying put on the weeds of Dominic,
"Or in Franciscan think to pass disguis'd."

MILTON.

A virgin has her limbs wrapped in the white habit of a Carmelite, with a wreath of myrtle round her temples, and a sprig in her hand.

The body of an English officer who had died of the wounds he received at the storming of Monte Video, was interred in the court yard before the chapel, the morning I was there, with military honours. The funeral service was read by a brother officer. The populace who were gathered round to view the ceremony, looked on with curiosity and wonder. The monks stared at each other with surprise, pity and a mixture of contempt painted on their faces. This was the first heretical funeral they had seen, and if I could judge

from their countenances, they had little doubt of the poor Englishman's soul being lodged in a worse place than purgatory.

About the centre of the chapel, on the right hand of the altar, a door opens into a piazza which surrounds the square area, on the opposite sides of which are arranged the cells of the monks. The convent has but one story. The area, or court-yard, is pleasant enough, and shaded by trees. Still further within is another yet more extensive, which has a cistern, and also a range of cells on one side.

On leaving the chapel, at the invitation of Father Campana, I accompanied my conductor into his cell. He was called out to confess some one a few moments after we entered, and two or three of the other monks came in to keep me company during his absence. They appeared

extremely good natured and obliging, though very ignorant, and none of the neatest. One of them brought in a bunch of cigars made of Paraguay tobacco. They are not so strong as those of Havanna, but have a mild and pleasant taste.

One of the good monks in the abundance of his civility, taking it into his head that the cigar I had was not good, took it out of my mouth, and insisted on my accepting that which he was smoking himself: all my assertions and endeavours to prevent him to the contrary notwithstanding. This is one of the strongest marks of attention which can be paid from one person to another. I was of course, for fear of giving offence, under the necessity of accepting it, although I could very willingly have dispensed with this piece of politeness.

In Father Campana's cell were about a hundred volumes of books; among them I perceived a French translation of Cook's Voyages, which none of them understood, and a Spanish edition of Blair's Rhetoric. There were also one or two novels which I did not expect to find in the library of a monk. The remainder of the collection was not very enticing.

The cell of Father Campana was a small low room; on one side stood his bed and a table with a crucifix; on the other a book-case. A back-door led into a small garden surrounded by a high brick wall. At the extremity of it a little alcove was formed by the overhanging grape vines: these with an orange and nectarine tree, and a few intermingled shrubs, made a cool retreat from the heat of the day.

The monks offered me a glass of *canà*,

or Brasil rum, of the strongest and most fiery kind. I took a little mixed with water; they however, drank it without that adulteration. This spirit the Spaniards are very partial to, and although they do not often take it to excess, yet they always drink it in its pure state. Even the ladies seem as fond of it as the other sex, and sip it without any mixture. Whenever they drink coffee, they *lace* it with this liquor. While I was sitting in the cell of Father Campana, I was not a little alarmed to perceive that one of the monks, who was seated in the chair next to me, and who appeared by no means the neatest among them, was amusing himself, during the intervals of conversation, with catching those little animals which are said to have been once so populous in Egypt, and which are still such close friends to the human race. I cannot accurately tell how many of these unfortu-

nate animals he put to death between his thumb-nails. The manner in which he was occupied did not afford me much entertainment. At last, however, when the holy father approached so near my territories as to commit the crime of murder on the arm of my own chair, I thought it full time to decamp, which I did with no small apprehension, and feeling, as if I was carrying away a colony of emigrants on my back.

This is the only order of monks in the city. Their dress consists of a coarse grey habit: within the convent walls they use no other covering to their heads but the cowl: when in the streets they wear a large white hat. They seem to be an harmless, benevolent, inoffensive race. Their knowledge is limited to what they have gathered from the monkish fathers, and scarcely extends beyond the convent walls.

They do not carry in their faces very strong marks of abstinence or mortification, and their lives are passed as pleasantly as good living can make them. The guardian of the convent appeared to be, from his countenance, a man of excellent heart, and from his conversation, to possess ideas more enlarged than his brothers.

I once, at the invitation of the superior, dined with a friend at the convent. Their usual hour of dinner was twelve o'clock, but as they wished on this occasion to give an entertainment agreeable to English hours of eating, they fixed it at four. From the specimen which they gave both of their appetites and of their cookery, it does not appear that they endanger their health by fasting, or that they often are guilty of the vice of abstemiousness. There were at least thirty different dishes, or rather different courses, for one dish only was

brought in at a time. The entrance of each was welcomed by a shout of joy from the whole table. Although nearly gorged by the third course, we were under the necessity of eating, at least of tasting of every one. No denial or remonstrance was hearkened to on any account whatever. Their pastry was excellent, and they appeared to be as well versed in the noble science of cookery, as if the treatise of Mrs. Glasse had been the sole object of their studies and meditations. Among the host of other exquisite dishes, there

"——Stood proudly eminent above the rest,"

an immense pig roasted whole; all the bones of which were extracted, and—

"In those holes where *bones* did once inhabit,
"There were *stuffed* as 'twere in scorn of *bones*"

spices and various aromatic compositions, whose nature I was not epicure enough to be capable of developing. In the secondary ranks of excellence was an

armadillo, or *hog in armour*, which is esteemed by *eaters* as a great luxury; and one dish called *carne con cuero*, i. e. a rump of beef roasted with the hide and hair on. Some consider this last mentioned dish to surpass in delicacy all other human inventions.

They had wines of several sorts, to which they did ample justice. After the cloth was removed, which was not until near seven o'clock, the spirits of these holy men began to rise, and their eyes to sparkle at the brisk circulation of the bottle. They introduced into the apartment which communicated with the dining hall, a musician, who regaled us with a number of songs, which he sung to his guitar. One of the fraternity who had a very good voice, accompanied him. The whole table joined very obstreporously in the chorus. In compliment to their guests,

the tune of "God save the King" was played. Several of the songs which they sung were not of the most delicate complexion, nor such as one would expect to hear echoed from the recesses of the cloister by a society of monks. These songs met with the most extravagant applause, and it appeared from the delight which they seemed to communicate, that the thoughts of these men of holiness, were not always fixed on things above.

Amid the fumes of wine and clouds of tobacco-smoke, we staid in this scene of jollity till it began to be very evident that if we remained much longer, we should be in danger of making a circuitous route home, even should we be able at last to find the way. This consideration induced us to take leave before twelve o'clock, at which time we found the monks so affectionate that it was not in our power to

effect an escape without being hugged by the whole convent.

There are a number of secular priests resident in the city, who are a very respectable class, and, generally speaking, men of some intelligence and instruction. They receive their education at Buenos Ayres, or at Cordova, a city of the interior, in both which places there is a very respectable university. They wear a black habit, merely shave the crown of their head, and are indulged in the luxury of *shirts*. They reside in their different families with their relations.

In Buenos Ayres are several other orders of monks, and two or three societies of nuns.

There is a theatre in Monte Video, which remained shut while the English were there. All the heroes of the buskin were

compelled to act a serious part in defence of the place; which indeed proved a tragedy to them, every one of them having made his final exit on the entrance of the British troops. I have been told that the performances were very paltry and extravagant.

The *Fuerte* or government-house, which is opposite the theatre, is by no means worthy of the purpose to which it is allotted. It is a low and very ancient edifice, and has undergone from year to year, a variety of repairs according to the convenience or taste of its different occupants. The entrance is through a large arch or gateway, into an extensive area adorned with grass plats and fruit trees, at the bottom of which, in front, stands the mansion-house. The buildings on the other sides of the square are appropriated as offices for the various departments of government.

The outside of the *Fuerte* from its iron gratings bears no small similitude to a gaol; and judging from its figure and shabbiness, might easily be mistaken for a livery-stable.

There are no other public edifices of consequence enough to merit a particular description. Many of the private houses have an airy and elegant appearance.

The equipages in the city are not very numerous or very splendid. They are all built in the ante-diluvian Spanish taste; are clumsy, unwieldy, and cumbrous, in the highest degree. The harness is in the same style, thick, heavy, and studded with brass nails. They are drawn by mules, which are universally used here in carriages of all descriptions. Waggons, which come from a distance in the interior, are generally drawn by oxen yoked at the horns. These vehicles, which are used in bringing to market meat, vegetables, and

the products of the country, are as little adapted for expedition as can well be conceived. The wheels are usually formed from a solid log, or two pieces of timber joined transversely together, and sawed into a circular shape: the circle is not always, however, mathematically observed, for they are as frequently seen of an oblong or angular figure. The body of the waggon is placed very high from the ground, and covered either with interwoven straw, or the hides of oxen. Both on their journey and during their continuance in town, they sleep in these machines, which are generally left without the gates.

To quicken the pace of the tardy-footed beasts, a pole of immense length, pointed with a sharp iron spear, hangs suspended from the roof of the cart, and a man rides on horseback by the side of the team, armed with a similar weapon, with which he guides them.

This mode is extremely cruel, and the sides of the oxen are commonly covered with blood. Indeed, to their beasts the Spaniards manifest no mercy, leaving them to subsist as chance directs. Such is the facility with which their loss is supplied that no provision in travelling is made for their subsistence. They are frequently left yoked for days together in the suburbs of Monte Video, with no other food than the scanty grass they can casually nibble under their feet, and perhaps without tasting a drop of water during the whole of that time. If the waggoner meets on his journey with a hole in the road which may be difficult from the badness of the weather for his team to pass, it is not unusual for him to kill one of his cattle, and make a bridge of the body. I have often seen in the streets their horns broken off, or torn out by the roots, and hanging over their ears, the wretched animal being still compelled to drag an enormous weight in

this miserable state, with the yoke fixed to the stump or remaining splinters.

The cattle of this country are distinguished for their excellence, size, and beauty. They have multiplied with an unexampled and astonishing rapidity. Farmers in the interior are not esteemed rich who are possessed of two hundred thousand head; and many have herds whose numbers are five or six times as great. They are considered valuable merely for the sake of their hides, for which vast quantities are annually killed.

The wild cattle are caught by the *laso* or noose of leather, in the use of which the country people are very dexterous. They usually go on horseback in companies of fifteen or twenty to hunt them. They strike the ox on the hind leg with a long wooden spear pointed with iron; and so skilful are they, that they seldom fail with

an unerring aim to cut the sinews in two. The blow is commonly given above the joint, and the animal of course is rendered incapable of running, and in a few moments falls to the ground. The huntsmen pursue at full speed the others that are flying before them, striking in the same way all they can overtake. They do not halt till they are spent with fatigue, when they discontinue the pursuit, and put to death without difficulty those that have been previously wounded. A small party can kill in this manner, in the space of an hour, eight hundred or a thousand bullocks. When the skin is taken off, the carcase is abandoned to the fowls of the air.

The *laso* or sling is also often used in hunting, and is peculiar to this country. In the management of it, they are so skilful as to be sure of never missing the object at which they aim. They generally throw

while at full speed on horseback, and catch the animal at pleasure by the neck, the horn, or the leg, as they think best. One of the hunters, however, most commonly throws the noose over a horn, another catches the animal by the hind leg, while a third dismounts and plunges a knife into his throat.

The horses of this country have multiplied in the same degree. They are, generally speaking, smaller than the English breed, and are less remarkable for beauty than agility, security, and swiftness. Many of them are nevertheless very elegant animals: and from the improved and altered appearance of those that were under the management of the English, it is very evident, that little else is wanted besides care and attention to make them beautiful. The Spaniards are not more merciful to this noble beast than to their oxen. There is scarcely such a thing as a stable

known in the province; nor is any provision even made of hay or straw for their support. Their only food throughout the year is what they gather in the fields. They are never shod, for the Spaniards do not keep one long enough to make that an object. They ride their horses three or four days in succession, without giving them during that period, any thing either to eat or drink. When they are nearly famished and exhausted with fatigue, they are once more turned loose to the fields and exchanged for others, which are condemned to undergo a similar fate. They frequently die from neglect. I have even often seen a number of these half-starved animals, pent up together in an inclosure and devouring eagerly refuse pieces of meat, or the perishing carcases of cattle.

The Indians who dwell on the plains of Pampas travel on horseback in caravans;

when they arrive in the suburbs of Buenos Ayres, they turn their horses into inclosures allotted them for that purpose. Having watered them on the first day of their arrival, they leave them to chance, and seldom give them any food, during their continuance in the city. A third part in a short time perish, and the remainder are compelled by hunger to feed on their dead carcases. Some of them linger out a little longer; when the Indians come to take them on their return, they seldom find more than a fourth part remaining of the original number. These they take; while the others of the party who are without horses travel a few miles on foot, when meeting with herds of wild horses, they noose as many as are requisite for them to pursue their journey.

The Spaniards are excellent horsemen. They ride in heavy old-fashioned saddles,

and with very long stirrups, usually of silver, which they are just able to reach with their toe. They wear huge silver spurs, with immense rowels of iron two or three inches thick in diameter, similar to those worn in the days of Queen Bess.

Short tails, which the English introduced, excited their wonder and ridicule. Till our arrival they had been strangers to this fashion, which is regarded as a great deformity. Mares are only used for the sake of breeding. A Spaniard would consider it a disgrace to his manhood to get astride one; and were he to appear thus mounted in the streets, he would be laughed and hooted at by the populace. The English, who used them, were not exempted from the mirth excited by so singular a spectacle.

In walking, the steps of the horses of

this country are very long and rapid, and nearly equal to the trot of an English horse. Their motion is very easy to the rider. Three or four dollars is the common price given for the handsomest of these animals.

In addition to the swarms of bugs and fleas with which every house of the city is infested, another nuisance of no small magnitude, particularly during those hours we usually devote to sleep, proceeds from the immense number of dogs that keep garrison in every habitation, and which post themselves under the windows, where they howl incessantly till day-light.

These animals have increased to such a degree, that there is a regulation of the Spanish government for a certain number every six months to be put to death.

In the country they run wild, are very

fierce, and travel in herds. They often attack foot passengers, and sometimes even horsemen. It is a remarkable and fortunate circumstance, and which may perhaps be attributed to the effect of climate, that notwithstanding this prodigious multiplication, there never occurs among them an instance of madness.

Here is a species of dog, small and entirely without hair, called *pelado*; they are generally black and as ugly as the imagination can paint the devil. Their skin is very hot, and the ladies for this reason make use of them in winter in lieu of a stove. Those who have the misfortune to sleep alone, in order to keep their feet warm in the long, cold, and comfortless nights of that season, carry these little monsters with them to bed.

The suburbs of Monte Video are an ex-

tensive plain, scattered with many houses, few of which are remarkable for beauty. In some parts it has the appearance of Golgotha, many of the fences and inclosures being formed of horns and the skulls of cattle. There are also several houses entirely constructed of the same materials. The bones and skulls of animals, from the scarcity of wood, are also used generally in the country as fuel; and the flesh of cattle is often applied to the same purpose.

In the brick-kilns of the vicinity they not only use bones, but burn also the bodies of sheep entire. It is, however, commonly the custom to draw a knife across their throats before they are cast into the oven. I have been assured that this ceremony is not always performed, but that they are sometimes driven in alive.

The air of the country about Monte Video is said to be even more wholesome than that of Buenos Ayres. Like that, it is deficient in wood. There is in the vicinity great plenty of game of every description.

Whatever literature is found in the country, and indeed the shadow of it is alone to be seen, is in possession of the priests. The influence of this class is unbounded, and over the minds of the people they have an uncontrolled power. Almost the only books in the country are engrossed by them. The journals and literary works of other nations, from the illiberal policy of the mother country, seldom gain admittance into the Spanish provinces, and only through the channel of the priests. The inhabitants are kept in a state of ignorance, and the transactions of Europe are conveyed to their

ears as obscure reports, so distorted in fact, and varied in circumstance, as to bear a faint resemblance to truth.

One of the first objects of my enquiries, after I arrived, was a bookseller's shop; and espying one day a little sign over the door of an ordinary house, intimating that books and stationary were for sale within, I entered. Behind the counter was a decent-looking young woman, whom I found to be the bookseller's wife. As a kind of apology for entering, I enquired for several Spanish works of celebrity, such as Don Quixote, Lope de Vega, Father Fejoo, &c. but a negative was given to all my questions. My expectations, indeed, were not raised, on my entrance, to a very high pitch. She requested me to walk behind the counter and look, if I chose, at the books there. The most conspicuous work I discovered

to be a Latin production of one of the Monkish fathers. There was an ancient English book, entitled, an "Essay on Sermons," by the Rev. — Somebody. A Treatise in French, on "La Structure Anatomique du Corps Humain," par Monsieur.—Je ne sçais qui;" and two or three other ponderous theological tomes in Spanish. The last and largest work of this interesting and valuable library was a "List of publications prohibited by the Holy Inquisition," in twelve volumes octavo.

This is the only shop of the kind in Monte Video, and conveys no bad picture of the literature of the place. From the above specimen I did not feel very desirous, of course, to diminish the collection, and accordingly took my leave, not however until the old bookseller himself came in, who seemed not a little sur-

prised at seeing a stranger behind the counter in such close confabulation with his wife. He nevertheless accepted my apology for the liberty I was taking, and opened his snuff-box at my departure in token of amity.

The reading of both sexes, at least of that portion of them able to read, is chiefly confined to the liturgy. The literary researches of the ladies seldom aspire in their loftiest flights, beyond some paltry novel or ridiculous love tale. To be able to write before marriage, is reckoned an extraordinary accomplishment in a woman. Among the highest class, and in persons who, from their stations, we should suppose to have more frequent opportunities of extending their information, the instances daily met with of ignorance is truly surprising. As an example of their geographical knowledge,

I was once asked, in the course of conversation with a gentleman who is looked upon here as a man of information, if England was separated by sea from France? and whether you could travel by land from North America to London? The person who made these inquiries is one of their wealthiest and most powerful merchants, and a principal member of the Cavildo.

Another one day asked me if Rio Janeiro was as far as Lisbon? They usually suppose London to be larger than Great Britain, and his Britannic Majesty is often here called the King of London.

The women of Monte Video are generally brunettes. Many of them are very handsome, and though small, elegantly and voluptuously formed. Their carriage is extremely graceful, and they

walk with an admirable air. The dress in which they appear abroad is universally black. They wear the old Spanish habit, to which no modern improvement can add grace or beauty. The fringed satin petticoat, not too long to conceal the symmetry and elegance of the ancle, and the black silk mantle falling on the shoulders, and displaying every movement to advantage, is all the dress consists of. This mantle or veil, is so formed as to conceal every part of the face but the eyes from view. The ladies, however, are not now so cruel as thus to debar us the sight of their beauties. They have grown infinitely more tender-hearted and indulgent than the dames of ancient days, and take as much pleasure as our own country women in disclosing their faces. Instead therefore of shutting the veil as formerly over their features, they merely pin it to the head, and let it fall gracefully back like a

cloak. They wear no other head-dress to shelter their complexions, which are exposed with only the slender defence of a fan, to the rude assaults of the sun. This constant exposure to his rays is, without doubt, the cause of their having less of the lily and the rose in their cheeks, than the women of Europe.—When children, their complexions are equally as fair.

The women generally marry very young, and they are oftentimes sacrificed by mercenary parents, from sordid motives, to the embraces of decrepitude and age. Such unequal alliances are of course always attended by jealousy on one part and intrigue on the other.

No lady, or any woman of decency ever steps over the threshold of her door unattended by a male or female slave, and if un-

married, they never appear in the streets without being accompanied by their mother or some married friend. A lover, if his affections are unfortunately placed on a virgin, will have many obstacles to encounter in obtaining a *tête-a-tête* with his mistress. He must submit in his interviews to have his ardour damped by the presence of the elderly ladies. After wedlock this rigour becomes many degrees softened, and most commonly relaxes into the opposite extreme.

It is not customary for ladies to be accompanied in their walks by the other sex. When it so happens that they walk together, they seldom go side by side, and no gentleman ever presumes in the streets to take a lady by the arm. This is a liberty not allowed even to a husband. If there chance to be several of both sexes in company, the women usually go before by

themselves, and the men follow in the same manner.

In going to mass, all enter the church indiscriminately, without regard to sex, quality, or colour. The attendant slave carries under his arm a carpet, which he spreads on the floor for his mistress to kneel on, and on which he kneels also himself behind her. There are no seats, and they remain in this position till the close of the service.

There is something wonderfully impressive and solemn in the appearance of a crowded assembly in this posture of humiliation, clothed in black, the emblem of sadness, and paying their devotions to Heaven. A stranger on entering one of their temples of worship, is filled with sensations of awe, and from his feelings at the moment, forgets that—

" ———— 'Tis not alone the inky cloak,
" Nor customary suits of solemn black,
" No, nor the dejected 'haviour of the visage,
" That can denote me truly—These indeed seem,
" For they are actions that a man may ply."

At the foot of the altar the kneeling maiden, whose thoughts seem bent on the world to come, and whose lips utter the accents of religion, has her imagination fixed on humbler objects, and is panting in secret for liberty.

The matron who is apparently only intent on reciting her prayers, is perhaps exchanging glances with her lover, or plotting to deceive anew the vigilance of her jealous husband.

Their fine figures and graceful carriage they retain, even after their other charms are fled. From this circumstance, one is oftentimes betrayed into unpleasant and ludicrous mistakes. After following

through several streets, a pretty figure with a well turned ancle, and a brisk and airy step, by a sudden inclination of the head you discover with mortification and horror, instead of the lovely features of youth and beauty which your fancy had pictured, the dusky visage of a lean and wrinkled hag. Old ladies are not often charming, but I think that antiquity never appears so hideous as in a Spanish woman.

Perhaps art has as large a share as nature in giving such a grace to their steps, and such elegance to their movements. In the shortness and equality of their steps consists the chief and most essential beauty of their gestures. The damsel is taught this art by her mother as soon as she begins to approach to womanhood, and it is not acquired without some perseverance and practice. A ligature is tied

above each knee, by which the legs are connected together, and the step limited to a certain distance. After this has been some time worn, the gait becomes habitual, and these fetters are then no longer necessary. During the period of probation, while a young lady is acquiring this art, I have often seen her trip, and sometimes even fall, in her abortive attempts to step over a gutter.

The Spanish ladies are extremely lively, good-humoured, and witty: their minds, though uncultivated, like the rich soil of their country, have the same luxuriance and fertility. They are kind and hospitable, and the jealous watchfulness in which they were formerly kept by their husbands, seems now, where the union is equal in years, to have considerably abated; at least it is chiefly confined to outward appearance. A woman looks

forward to the period of her marriage as the commencement of freedom. And if it is her lot to fall into the arms of an aged husband, she seldom fails to elude his jealousy, although she may not be able to lull his watchfulness to sleep.

Their accomplishments are not extensive. They seldom read. Their amusements chiefly consist in singing and playing on the guitar, with which they pass many of their hours. They all seem fond of music, and some few of them can touch the piano forte. The airs which they play are mostly love songs, and the melancholy ditties of Peru.

The men in their visits sit apart from the women, and do not often join in conversation. Indeed, they seem to have lost with their jealousy, almost every trace of that gallantry, which in the days

of chivalry, was proverbial in a Spanish cavalier. They smoke continually, abroad as well as at home, in all companies, and to this practice the ladies are no obstacle. Old age and youth, and e'en

"The lover here beneath the western star,
"Sighs through the medium of his sweet cigar."

We seldom see in a Spanish woman the appearance of melancholy or depression. They all enjoy an uninterrupted flow of spirits. This vivacity of disposition makes them often satirical, but their wit is so harmless, and their satire so tempered with good-humour, that it is impossible ever to be offended. That they have such a fondness for intrigue is perhaps to be ascribed less to libertinism than to their mode of education. Their genius is fertile in expedients, and there is no jealousy so lynx-eyed, nor seclusion so rigid, but they have skill enough to escape.

A stranger unacquainted with the character of Spanish women, is led frequently to suppose them licentious from their using liberties of speech which appear to us indelicate, but which proceed solely from their ingenuous nature. They converse on all topics with the utmost freedom, and speak without reserve on those subjects to which the most distant allusion is sufficient to cover one of our own countrywomen with blushes.

In the composition of a Spanish woman, like those of some other countries, vanity forms one of the chief ingredients. The first object of her ambition is to make a genteel appearance. To accomplish this, she will cheerfully submit to the greatest inconvenience, privations, and hardships, and make any sacrifice. She will deny herself the comforts of life, and pinch herself and her children of bread.

Of this the outward gentility, contrasted with the interior poverty and wretchedness which one every day discovers, is a striking proof. We meet women in the streets dressed with gaiety and elegance, who labour for their daily bread—who have scarcely clothing to shelter their families from the weather, and whose dwellings exhibit every disgusting feature of squalid beggary.

The lower orders of women are universally employed in the manufacture of cigars, and there is scarcely a family below mediocrity in which some of the females are not thus occupied. The consumption of them is, in this country, immense. A girl can make in one day, easily, and without any extraordinary exertion, five or six hundred. Many of the inveterate smokers think the Paraguay tobacco too weak, and use in preference,

the cigars of Brazil, which are stronger, and wrapped up in little rolls of paper. Even some young ladies of the most respectable families, sometimes employ themselves in this manufacture for amusement, and make cigars enough for home consumption.

All classes, rich and poor, industrious as well as idle, indulge themselves in the *siesta*. As soon as their dinner is finished, the gentleman, the artificer, and the slave, leave alike their avocations, and yield themselves up to the arms of sleep. Their nap continues about three hours, and during this period a profound silence reigns throughout the city; the busy hum of industry is still, and not the face of a Spaniard is to be seen in the streets.

This is "their custom always in the afternoon." The only interruption which it

ever meets with is occasioned by the approach of thunder. Of this they are superstitiously afraid. Storms of this kind are very frequent, and the thunder and flashes of lightning by which they are accompanied are tremendous. As soon as the clouds begin to lower, and the muttering thunder is heard at a distance, they abandon their occupations, shut the windows of their apartments, and betake themselves to prayer. A consecrated taper is placed before the image of the Virgin, and the whole family throw themselves with devout fear and trembling, on their knees, before the crucifix or figure of their patron saint. They remain in this posture until the storm has ceased. This is universally practised. The religious inhabitants seemed shocked at the carelessness, disregard, and heretical levity with which we appeared to consider it.

Among the higher order of inhabitants,

at least of males, the fashions of Europe are adopted with little or no variation. There is a garment worn in this country which serves for a variety of purposes. It is called a *poncho*, and is worn chiefly by the peasantry, though occasionally by those of the higher class. It is ordinarily a mere striped rug with a hole in the middle for the head, and which falls down both before and behind almost to the feet. They wear it in all weathers, in summer and in winter. It answers as a cloak to shelter them from the rain, and as a covering for the bed at night.

Some of these *ponchos* are extremely rich; those which are brought from the province of Peru sometimes cost six or eight hundred dollars, and are of exquisite manufacture.

There is one trait in the South Ameri-

can Spaniards much in their favour. I mean the mild, humane, and gentle treatment which their slaves receive. This one would scarcely expect from the cruelty they manifest to animals. The condition of the Africans here is without doubt happier than in any other part of the world, where they are held in slavery; and I will even venture to say, more so than in their native country. A severe punishment is seldom inflicted: the tasks imposed on them are light, and such as they can easily execute. Indeed they scarcely seem to be slaves.

Although I am far from being an advocate for the slave trade, yet I am fully persuaded that their condition is much ameliorated by their removal; that they here enjoy a much greater share of the comforts and conveniences of life, and that their state is far preferable to the liberty which they formerly knew.

The Spaniards here preserve, in its full degree, the inveteracy and hatred against the Portuguese, which exists between the two European kingdoms. It is indeed scarcely possible to conceive the malignant and deadly abhorrence with which they view each other.

There is perhaps no where such a heterogeneous mixture of colours as among the people here. You see every intermediate shade from the European to the Negro, and every "shadow of a shade" produced by the intercourse of these with the native Indian.

There are few Negroes free, but many Mulattoes.

The Indians in colour are very similar to the North Americans. They are of a deep copper hue; but their features are not

so harsh, nor their physiognomy so disagreeable. They are well made, and though not large in stature, their limbs are strong and muscular. Notwithstanding the abject state to which they have been reduced, there frequently appear among them marks of powerful genius. Their paintings, imitations, and manufactures, evince that nothing is wanting but gentle treatment and better education, to make them equal in mental excellence the boasted intellectual powers of the paler European.

From this imperfect outline, some conception may be formed of the manners, the habits, the disposition and character of the people among whom we have so recently been. An idea may also be entertained of the advantages that would have resulted to Great Britain, from the possession of a country abounding in every thing that

could give a spring to commerce; advantages that have been so shamefully abandoned. An event like this, so unexpected and astonishing there, and the intelligence of which was received at home with amazement and incredulity—an event that has cast disgrace on the nation, and brought so many to the brink of bankruptcy and ruin, cannot be passed over without exciting some observations.

It is to be feared that our prospects in South America are closed. If this be the case, it must be viewed by every one who has the public welfare at heart, as a national calamity, the greatest that our country has for many years felt.

It is a cutting reflection, that what might have been so easily attained, without the sacrifice of a drop of blood, and as

it were for nothing, should by rashness and inability be irrecoverably lost, with such dishonour, at the expence of so much treasure and so many lives.

Some may perhaps think these remarks made with too much asperity and warmth; but for their truth I appeal to the world. From the opportunity I had of knowing the sentiments of the people, from the various sources I sought for intelligence and information, and which a knowledge of the language enabled me to attain, I think myself justified in speaking as I do. I will even hazard the assertion, that two thirds of the inhabitants were friendly to the English.

In this I am conscious, that I shall incur the censure of differing in opinion from the distinguished General, whose gallantry and

skill were so conspicuous in the conquest of Monte Video. It appears by his evidence at the late trial, that he thinks in a different manner. No one can entertain a higher respect for the amiable character, and military talents of this able officer; but on this occasion I must think his opinion erroneous. He was ignorant of the language, seldom associated with the inhabitants, visited or was visited by them. His intelligence was received through incorrect and uncertain channels. He had no knowledge from personal observation or familiar intercourse. Opinions, consequently, drawn from such sources, cannot be considered correct.

But what credit is due on this subject to the sentiments of the other commanders, whose whole conduct was a series of errors, when this is the only plea on which their defence is grounded? Nor can any

one imagine, that a six weeks residence in the country could have enabled them to form a very just conception. It is, however, with regret that we see a gallant officer, and one whose bravery has conferred so much glory on himself and honour to his country, hastily adopt the opinions of others.

The intercourse which subsisted between the Spaniards and English in Monte Video, gave them an idea of our character, conduct, and liberal intentions, so different from what they had been taught to expect, that could they have followed their own wishes, and what they knew to be their own interest, by far the greater part of them would have rejoiced at our continuance among them. They confessed that they had never before seen such commerce, that they had never enjoyed under their former government such security and hap-

piness, or known such strict impartiality in the administration of justice. Such were the warm assurances which I often received in the openness of confidential intercourse, from many individuals of respectability and influence.

It indeed seemed, without exaggeration, that the inhabitants of Monte Video, on the news of our repulse at Buenos Ayres, felt even more severely than ourselves, and lamented, instead of rejoicing, at the successes of their countrymen. As the period of our departure approached, and when they found by our preparations that the place was really to be abandoned, which was a circumstance that they for a long time thought incredible, a gloom seemed to pervade every countenance. Not the most distant appearance of exultation could any where be discovered. They took leave of us with regret, and seemed by

the tears that were shed to be parting from their friends and relations, rather than from enemies.

It is almost needless to recapitulate the benefits that would be felt by Great Britain from the possession of Rio de la Plata. They are so many that their enumeration is difficult, and at the same time so obvious, that it is unnecessary. It will be seen from what we have said, that there can be few spots on the globe where such a variety of advantages are combined, both in a commercial and political view.

My words are too feeble to convey a just description of this beautiful country.

" Whatever fruits in different climes are found,
" That proudly rise, or humbly court the ground;
" Whatever blooms in torrid tracts appear,
" Whose bright succession decks the varied year;
" Whatever sweets salute the northern sky
" With vernal lives, that blossom but to die;

"These here disporting own the varied soil;
"Nor ask luxuriance from the planter's toil."

GOLDSMITH.

By the narrow and jealous policy of the Spanish colonial laws, the growth of many fruits are prohibited, which, under the auspices of the English government, might be cultivated with such profit and advantage, as to constitute no inconsiderable article of commerce. The cultivation of vineyards, which would in that case be allowed, would form an important consideration. The grapes which this country produces are excellent, and the finest and most delicious wines might be easily made.

The demand for the manufactures of Great Britain is immense. For these, the Rio de la Plata would afford an inlet to the whole continent, and the export of those valuable articles, hides, tallow, cop-

per, wool, bark, &c. &c. which would be received in return, render the possession of this country an invaluable acquisition.

To be in possession of the river, it is by no means necessary that we should be in possession of Buenos Ayres. Perhaps every commercial advantage would equally result from confining our views to Monte Video alone, inclusive of the north side of the river from Maldonado to Colonia. This includes a great extent of territory, bounded by the Brazils; and as the Court of Portugal has now removed to that country, the proximity of a friendly power renders an establishment here a more important object.

Were we once more to take possession of Monte Video, the Spaniards of the interior, for their own interest and con-

venience, would soon be compelled to consent to a free communication. The thirst for traffic, and desire of gain, which is generally a leading feature in the character of every Spaniard, would prevent them from remaining long in a state of hostility. They would gladly embrace the first offers of peace. Were we to declare the country independent of Spain, under the protection of the British Government, there is not a man among them but would fly to us with joy, and regard us as protectors.

Were we, as should have been done at first, to hold out to the inhabitants peace and conciliation, and were it made known to them that our only wish was to establish them on the footing of an independent state, I venture to affirm, that no exertion on the part of the self-interested Audienza of Buenos Ayres, and

officers from Old Spain, could prevent the inhabitants of that extensive and populous city from seeking an intercourse with us.

At a moment like the present, when our manufactures are shut out from the continent of Europe, and when the threatening aspect of affairs in America, indicates every appearance of an impending war, ought an object of such magnitude, in which is involved the interests of the great body of merchants, on whom the support of the country depends, to be passed by with neglect?

By commerce the British empire alone exists. When the sources of that are cut off, we can only expect immediate ruin and annihilation.

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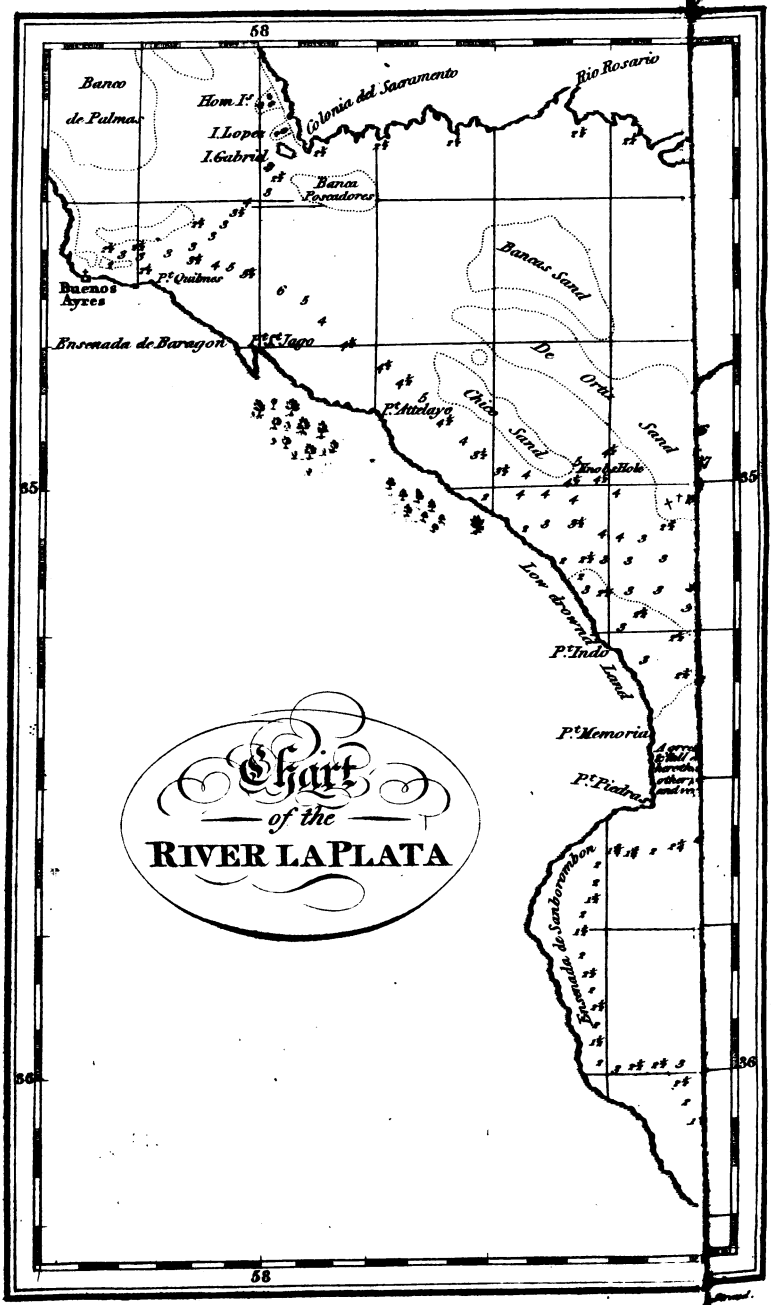
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of the
RIVER LA PLATA

HISTORY

OF THE

BRITISH EXPEDITION.

In taking a view of the recent operations of the British forces on the continent of South America, it will be rquisite, for the sake of perspicuity, to commence with a brief notice of the previous proceedings of the force by which those operations were conducted. This being premised, the reader will not feel surprise at finding here some details which might otherwise appear foreign to the present narrative.

In the month of August 1805, an expedition sailed from Cork, consisting of three line of battle ships, several frigates,

nineteen Indiamen, and about forty transports, carrying upwards of nine thousand troops. The naval department was under the direction of Sir Home Popham, and the military was commanded by Major-general Sir David Baird. This armament first proceeded to Madeira, and then continued its course to the Bay of All Saints, on the coast of Brazil, for the purpose of obtaining a supply of water and provisions. This object being accomplished, the fleet then steered towards the Cape of Good Hope. On the 3d of January 1806, it made Table Land, and on the 4th in the evening, reached the anchorage where it had been concerted to land the main body of the army. The violence of the surf, however, prevented the debarkation till the afternoon of the 6th, and the next morning the British army began to advance towards Cape Town. After a decisive victory gained by Sir David Baird

over the Dutch troops under General Jansens, the Governor of the Cape, a capitulation was agreed upon. After an ineffectual attempt at resistance by the Dutch General, the colony, with all its dependencies, was surrendered to the British arms.

No sooner was the complete reduction of the settlement effected, than Sir Home Popham formed a plan for employing the vessels under his command on an expedition to the opposite shores of the American continent. It obtained the approbation of General Baird, who, having received some reinforcements from England, assigned what troops he could spare for its execution, and gave the command of them to Major-general Beresford. The Spanish settlements on the Rio de la Plata were the object of this expedition.

The armament sailed from the Cape, and arrived toward the end of April, 1806, at St. Helena, where the commanders obtained permission of the Governor to embark a detachment of troops belonging to that island. Notwithstanding this recruit, their whole force, including the marines and seamen destined to act on shore, did not exceed one thousand six hundred and thirty-five men.

On the 2d of May they sailed from St. Helena, and after a passage of unexpected length, made Cape St. Mary at the mouth of the Rio de la Plata. Sir Home Popham considering it an object of material consequence to obtain the earliest local information in the river, on the 27th of May placed the squadron under the direction of Captain Rowley, and preceded it in the Narcissus for that purpose. He was accompanied by Captain Kennett, of the

engineers, who was directed by the General to reconnoitre the enemy's positions on the river, in the best manner that circumstances would permit, and to collect every possible intelligence concerning them. On the 8th of June, the Narcissus anchored near the island of Flores; and on the 11th the commodore had the satisfaction to fall in with the Encounter and the Ocean transport, which had parted from the fleet previous to its arrival at St. Helena. Owing to fogs and baffling winds, it was not till six days after the armament entered the river that it joined the Narcissus.

The commanders immediately consulted, whether it would be most prudent to make the first attack on the town of St. Philip, Monte Video, or Buenos Ayres, the capital of the province. They determined to proceed against the latter; on

which no time was lost in removing from the line-of-battle ships the troops, marines, and such seamen as were incorporated with them, and others who had been regularly exercised to arms during the passage, into the Narcissus, the Encounter, and the transports; while the Diadem blockaded the ports of Monte Video, and the Raisonable and Diomede, by way of demonstration, cruised near Maldonado and other assailable points. This business was accomplished about the 16th of June, at which time the armament was about ninety miles distant from the place of its destination. Its progress up the river was very much retarded by the shoalness of the water, adverse winds and currents, continual fogs, and the great inaccuracy of the charts; but by the skill and assiduity of Sir Home Popham, and the unremitting and laborious exertions of the officers and men under

his command, these difficulties were surmounted, and the squadron anchored in the afternoon of the 25th, off Point Quilmes, about twelve miles from Buenos Ayres.

Here General Beresford proposed to land, having been informed by an Englishman, who was pilot for the river, and was taken by the Narcissus out of a Portuguese vessel, that it was an excellent place for the purpose, and there was an easy access from it into the country. As it was impossible for the Narcissus to approach the shore on account of the shallowness of the water, the Encounter was run in so close as to take the ground, the more effectually to cover the debarkation of the army in case of necessity. The whole of the forces, were, however, landed in the course of the evening, without the least opposition. They consisted of the de-

tachment of his majesty's troops from the Cape, and that from St. Helena, with the marine battalion under the orders of Captain King, of the Diadem, which was composed of the marines of the squadron, augmented by the incorporation of some seamen, and three companies of royal blues, who had been regularly trained for that duty, and dressed in an appropriate uniform.

The enemy was posted at the village of Reduction, situated on an eminence about two miles from the beach. The intervening space between the two armies had the appearance of a fine plain, but the following morning it proved to be a morass in a high state of verdure. General Beresford was informed by his guide, that though in winter this place was impassable, it was then very practicable and easy for guns to cross.

It was eleven o'clock in the morning of the 26th before General Beresford could move off his ground, and the enemy, from their position, might have counted every man of the British force. They were drawn up on the brow of the hill on which is seated the village of Reduction, which covered their right flank; and their force consisted principally of cavalry, to the number of two thousand, with eight field-pieces. The nature of the ground was such, that General Beresford was under the necessity of going directly to their front; and to make his as nearly equal as possible, he formed all the troops into one line, except the St. Helena infantry of one hundred and fifty men, which he drew up one hundred and twenty yards in the rear, with two field-pieces, and orders to face to the right and left, as either of the flanks should be threatened by the cavalry. He had two six-pounders on

each flank, and two howitzers in the centre of the first line. In this order the troops advanced against the enemy, and General Beresford having arrived within range of their guns, a tongue of swamp crossed his front and obliged him to halt, while his own guns made a small circuit to avoid it. This was scarcely performed when the enemy opened their field-pieces, which were at first well pointed; but as the English advanced with great rapidity, in spite of the boggy ground, that soon obliged them to leave all their guns behind, the fire did them very little injury. The 71st regiment reaching the bottom of the heights in a pretty good line, seconded by the marine battalion, the enemy would not wait their nearer approach, but retired from the brow of the hill, which the assailants ascended with that coolness and courage which has, on every occasion, distinguished the charac-

ter of the British soldier. The Spaniards now fled with precipitation, leaving behind their artillery, consisting of four field-pieces and one tumbril.

General Beresford halted two hours on the field to rest his troops, and to make arrangements for taking with him the enemy's guns and his own, which had been extricated from the bog by the exertions of Captain Donelly of the Narcissus, who had accidentally landed, and accompanied the troops on seeing them advance to meet the enemy.

The general then marched, in hopes of preventing the destruction of the bridge over the *Riochuelo, or Little River*, a river not fordable at that season, and which lay between him and the city, distant from it about three miles, and eight from his then situation; and though he used the

utmost diligence, he had the mortification to see the bridge in flames long before he could reach it. He therefore halted the troops for the night, a mile from it, and pushed on three companies of the 71st, under Lieutenant-colonel Pack, with two howitzers, to the bridge, to prevent its total destruction. This detachment the General accompanied himself, but on reaching the bridge found it entirely consumed, and as the enemy was heard bringing down guns during the night, he withdrew the detachment before light, as its position was thought too open and too much exposed to the enemy's fire.

On the 27th, as soon as it was light, General Beresford sent Captain Kennett of the engineers to reconnoitre the sides of the river, and found that his troops had little or no cover to protect them, while the enemy were drawn up behind hedges,

houses, and in the shipping on the opposite bank of the river, which was not thirty yards wide. As his situation and circumstances admitted not of the least delay, he determined to force the passage. For that purpose he ordered the field-pieces down to the water's edge, and directed the infantry, except the light company and the grenadiers of the 71st, to remain under cover in the rear. As the guns approached, the enemy opened a very ill-directed fire from their artillery and musketry. The former, however, soon ceased, after the British fire commenced; but the latter was kept up for some time, though it was so ill-directed as to do little or no injury. By the activity and exertions of Captain King, who commanded the battalion of marines, boats and rafts were prepared, and the troops crossed the river. Perceiving no signs of further opposition, and learning

that the troops had abandoned the city, General Beresford was induced, by motives of humanity, to send his aid-de-camp, the Honourable Ensign Gordon, with a summons to the governor to surrender the city and fortress; representing that the excesses and calamities which would probably occur, should the troops enter in a hostile manner, might thus be avoided, and informing him, that the English would insure to the inhabitants the exercise of their religion, as well as protection for their persons, and for all private property.

The Governor sent back an officer to request a few hours to draw up conditions, but the General refused to delay his march, which he commenced as soon as his whole force had crossed the river; and on approaching the city, he was again met by an officer from the Go-

vernor, with a number of conditions. The General informed him, that he could not then attend to them, but would confirm in writing what he had promised, when in possession of the city which he immediately entered. Thus fell the opulent capital of the extensive province of *La Plata*, where the conquerors found eighty eight pieces of cannon, five hundred and fifty barrels of powder, and a quantity of small arms. Their loss in atchieving its reduction was one killed, twelve wounded, and one missing.

On the 2d of July, the terms granted by the commanders of the British forces to the inhabitants of Buenos Ayres, were signed by Sir Home Popham and the Spanish Governor Quintana. By these the garrison were declared prisoners of war, protection was promised to private property, and the inhabitants were

confirmed in the exercise of the Catholic religion, and the privileges which they before enjoyed. The captors, though entitled by the laws of war to all the vessels of every description, yet, sensible of the distress which the privation of them must have occasioned to the owners, generously relinquished their right to those vessels and their cargoes, amounting in number to one hundred and eighty, and in value to a million and a half of dollars. Proclamations to the above effect were likewise issued by the British commanders.

The Viceroy had retired from Buenos Ayres on the approach of the English, and a great quantity of treasure had been conveyed from the city. The first care, therefore, of General Beresford, after he found himself perfectly settled in his new conquest, was to send a small detachment to Luxan, about fifty miles distant from the

capital, with the avowed object of escorting back some of the treasure which had been removed under the pretext of being private property; but principally to reconnoitre the country, and to learn the disposition of the inhabitants. A considerable quantity of treasure, actually on its way to Cordova, was fortunately preserved by this detachment for the gallant captors, and the commanding officer, Captain Arbuthnot, reported favourably of the general disposition of the people.

The total amount of the specie, which, as private property, fell into the hands of the conquerors, exceeded 1,290,000 dollars. Of this sum 1,086,000 were sent to England in the Narcissus; the commanders reserving the remainder for the exigencies of the army and navy. Exclusive of the specie, it was estimated that the value of the merchandize in the

king's stores, principally consisting of Jesuit's bark and quicksilver, and in the Philippine Company's stores, together with the floating property retained, could not amount to less than between two and three millions of dollars.

It was not, however, by the amount of the property taken at Buenos Ayres that the importance of the conquest was to be estimated. Britain being nearly excluded from all intercourse with the European continent, it behoved her to seek some other mart for her commodities. It struck the intelligent mind of Sir Home Popham, that this could most easily be effected by opening a communication with the extensive regions of the South American continent. No sooner were the British troops in possession of Buenos Ayres, than, with a laudable solicitude for the interest of his coun-

try, he addressed a circular letter to the mayor and corporation of each of the great manufacturing towns in the kingdom, stating the advantages of a commerce to that hitherto neglected country.

The intelligence of this conquest was received in England with the exultation due to its importance, and numerous commercial speculations were the consequence. An order in council was issued by his majesty for opening a trade with Buenos Ayres and its dependencies, conformably with the regulations between Great Britain and her colonial possessions. The arrangement made by General Beresford for the reduction of the importation duties from thirty-four and a half to twelve and a half per cent. was confirmed, but the importation of slaves was totally prohibited.

Symptoms of disaffection in a short time began to manifest themselves among the inhabitants of the newly conquered city ; and this disposition was not only encouraged by some of their leading men, but likewise by the small number of the force by which they were held in subjection. Pueridon, a member of the municipality, applied himself with great assiduity and address to prepare the people for a general insurrection. The arms in the town were secreted ; the malcontents assembled every night to receive his instructions, and he gained the support of all the rabble of the country, by means of the ample supplies of money with which he was furnished on the north side of the river. At Colonia, on the same side of La Plata, Liniers, a French officer in the Spanish service, was meanwhile successfully employed in collecting people. A system of terror was established, and

every person who refused to contribute his aid to this conspiracy was threatened with instant death. So rapid was the progress of this insurrection, that on the 31st of July, Sir Home Popham, who had been reconnoitering Monte Video, received a dispatch on his return at Ensenada, acquainting him with General Beresford's apprehensions that an insurrection would shortly be attempted. He was at the same time informed, that seventeen Spanish vessels had just arrived at Colonia, and as it was reported that this force was to be further increased from Monte Video, he gave directions for arming some vessels to attack the enemy at the former place, as it was impossible to prevent their crossing from the north shore whenever the wind was fair.

The Commodore proceeded in the Leda to Buenos Ayres, which he reached on

the 2d of August, and found that General Beresford, with five hundred men, had just made a successful attack on a body of fifteen hundred Spaniards, under Pueridon, five leagues from the town, and taken all their cannon. On the 4th the Spaniards collected at Colonia, and availing themselves of the thickness of the weather and a heavy gale, crossed unobserved to the southern shore on which Buenos Ayres is situated. During the succeeding days the rain fell in torrents, and rendered the roads totally impracticable, except for cavalry. This circumstance effectually baffled the determination of General Beresford to attack the enemy at a distance from the town, within which it confined him. The enemy, on the other hand, possessing an inexhaustible supply of horses, sustained little inconvenience from the state of the roads; they were consequently enabled to approach the town

in various directions without giving the British troops any opportunity of attacking them. On the 10th, not only had the Spanish army, divided into several columns, occupied the different avenues of the town, but the inhabitants had armed themselves, and taken post on the tops of the houses and churches with the design of carrying on a war of ambush. In the evening Liniers, who commanded the Spanish army, sent a summons to General Beresford, with which the latter refused to comply. Perceiving the impossibility of maintaining themselves in the town, and the manifest disposition of the enemy to avoid an engagement, the British commanders determined that night to embark the wounded and cross the Riochuelo, for the purpose of moving towards Ensenada; a plan which was, however, frustrated by the weather, which became very violent during the night.

The numbers of the enemy in the houses and churches near the castle kept continually increasing, while others advanced by all the streets not under the influence of its fire. Such was the situation of things at day-break on the 12th, when a smart fire commenced from the Spanish advanced posts; but it was soon returned with great effect by the artillery planted towards the principal streets leading to the great square. For a short time the enemy, emboldened by their numbers, shewed a greater degree of firmness than on any former occasion, and pushed forward with three pieces of artillery; but being charged by Lieutenant Colonel Pack these were soon taken. During this interval reinforcements crowded the tops of the houses commanding the great square from the back streets, and the British troops were greatly annoyed by people who were out of their

reach. The castle was likewise commanded by the enemy in the same way, with the additional advantage of a gun on the top of the cathedral. General Beresford, disappointed in his last efforts to bring on a general engagement in the great square, had the further mortification of seeing the ranks of his gallant little army fast thinned by shots from invisible hands. The only means of saving the useless effusion of blood was a flag of truce, which was hoisted at the castle about one o'clock. The great square was instantly thronged with near ten thousand men, who pressed forward in the most outrageous manner to force their way into the fort, and even fired at the British troops on the ramparts. The latter were, with extreme difficulty, restrained from revenging their insult; and the General roundly declared to the Spanish officers, that unless their men retired in one minute, he must, as the

only measure of safety, haul down the flag of truce and re-commence hostilities. This firmness produced the desired effect. He then sent his conditions to the Spanish general by whom they were immediately acceded to.

In this unequal conflict, the English sustained a loss of one hundred and sixty-five in killed, wounded, and missing. That of the Spanish assailants, whose number amounted to about ten thousand, exclusive of as many more inhabitants of the town, armed in various ways, is stated at about seven hundred.

By the articles of capitulation it was agreed, that the British troops should march out with the honors of war, and be embarked for England as prisoners; that the Spanish troops made prisoners on the capture of the place, should be exchanged

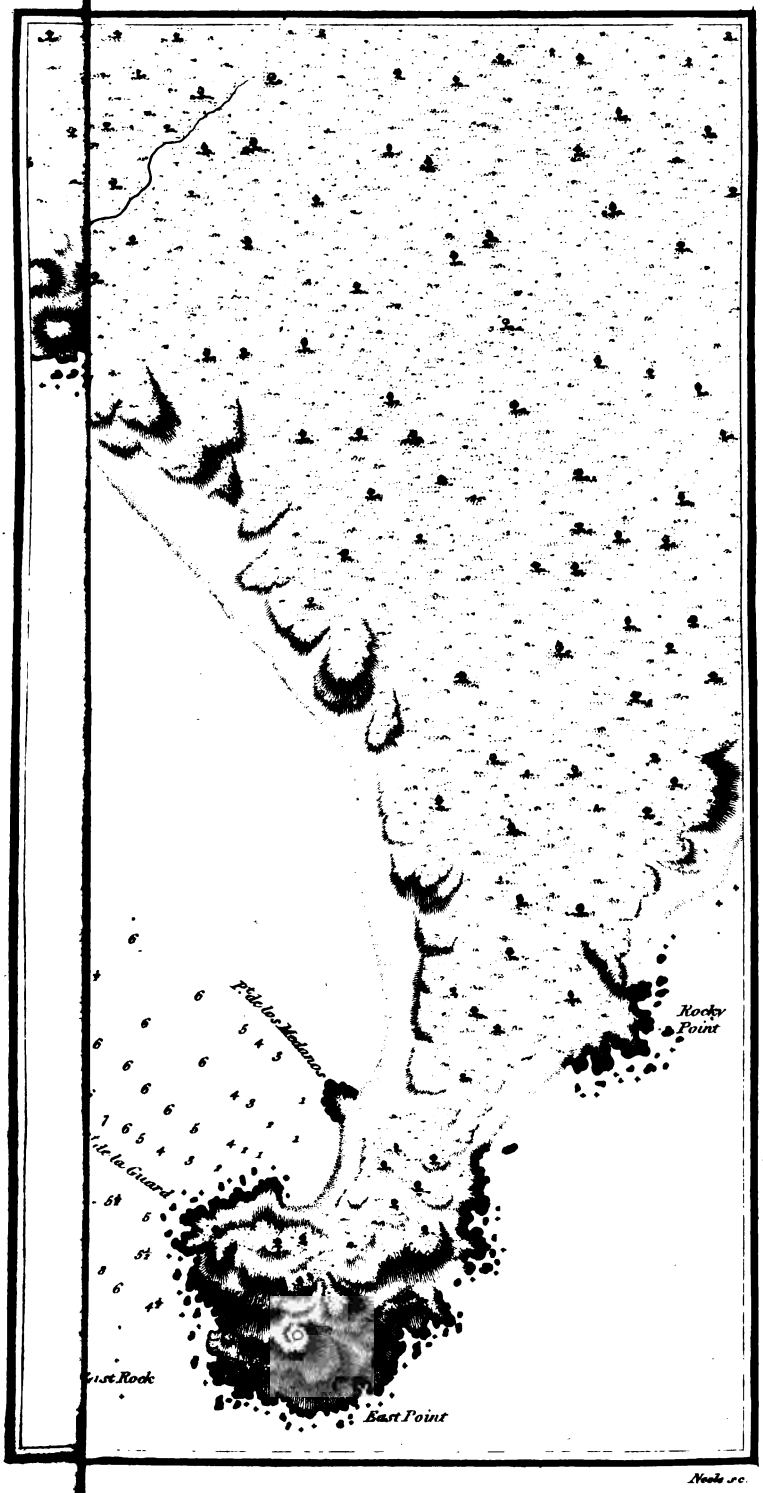
for the British taken at the re-capture; and that the property of all British subjects in Buenos Ayres should be respected. This capitulation, however, after being signed, was broken by the Spaniards, who marched their prisoners up the country.

After the surrender of General Beresford, Sir Home Popham proceeded with all the vessels which escaped from that city, towards Ensenada, to embark the detachments of marines which had been left there; after which he stood out to the mouth of the river to wait for reinforcements.

On the 12th of October, the Commodore was joined by Lieutenant-colonel Backhouse, with the first battalion of the 47th regiment, sent from the Cape of Good Hope by Sir David Baird to join Major-general Beresford. In consequence of the

captivity of the latter, the command of the forces in the Rio de la Plata, devolved on Colonel Backhouse, who immediately concerted with the Commodore an attack on Monte Video. Having reconnoitred the place, he conceived it possible to carry the place by assault on the side next the river, with the co-operation of the squadron. An attempt to execute this plan was accordingly made on the 28th of October; but the water proved too shallow to admit the ships to bombard the town with effect. They therefore withdrew; and the Lieutenant-colonel upon this, deemed it advisable to take possession of Maldonado, a town situated nearer the mouth of the river, as a favourable position for refreshing the troops, mounting the cavalry, and making such arrangements as might be thought necessary.

He accordingly landed on the 29th with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four hundred men, and advanced against the town, occupied by about six hundred regulars and militia, most of whom were mounted, with one howitzer and one four-pounder field-piece. Though the assailants were unprovided with artillery, the Spaniards were soon dispersed, with the loss of their guns and about fifty men killed and wounded. That of the English was two killed and four wounded. At day-break on the morning of the 30th, Lieutenant-colonel Vassal was detached to take possession of the heavy batteries on the beech of the harbour of Maldonado. These, together with the strong island and post of Goretti, commanding the harbour and defended by twenty twenty-four pounders and a garrison of upwards of one hundred men, surrendered at discretion.

During these operations, Rear-admiral Stirling had been sent by government to

supersede Sir Home Popham in the command of the British squadron in the river Plata. An expedition which sailed from England in October, under the command of Brigadier-general Sir Samuel Auchmuty, reached Maldonado on the 5th of January, 1807, and thus increased the number of troops to about five thousand.

Immediately on the arrival of this force it was determined to invest Monte Video. A landing was accordingly effected on the 18th near Carreta Point, about nine miles eastward of the town. The enemy had assembled in considerable numbers on the heights, and with several pieces of cannon seemed determined to oppose the progress of the troops. They did not, however, advance to oppose the debarkation, but suffered General Auchmuty to take a strong position about a mile from the shore. A distant cannonade was kept up by the

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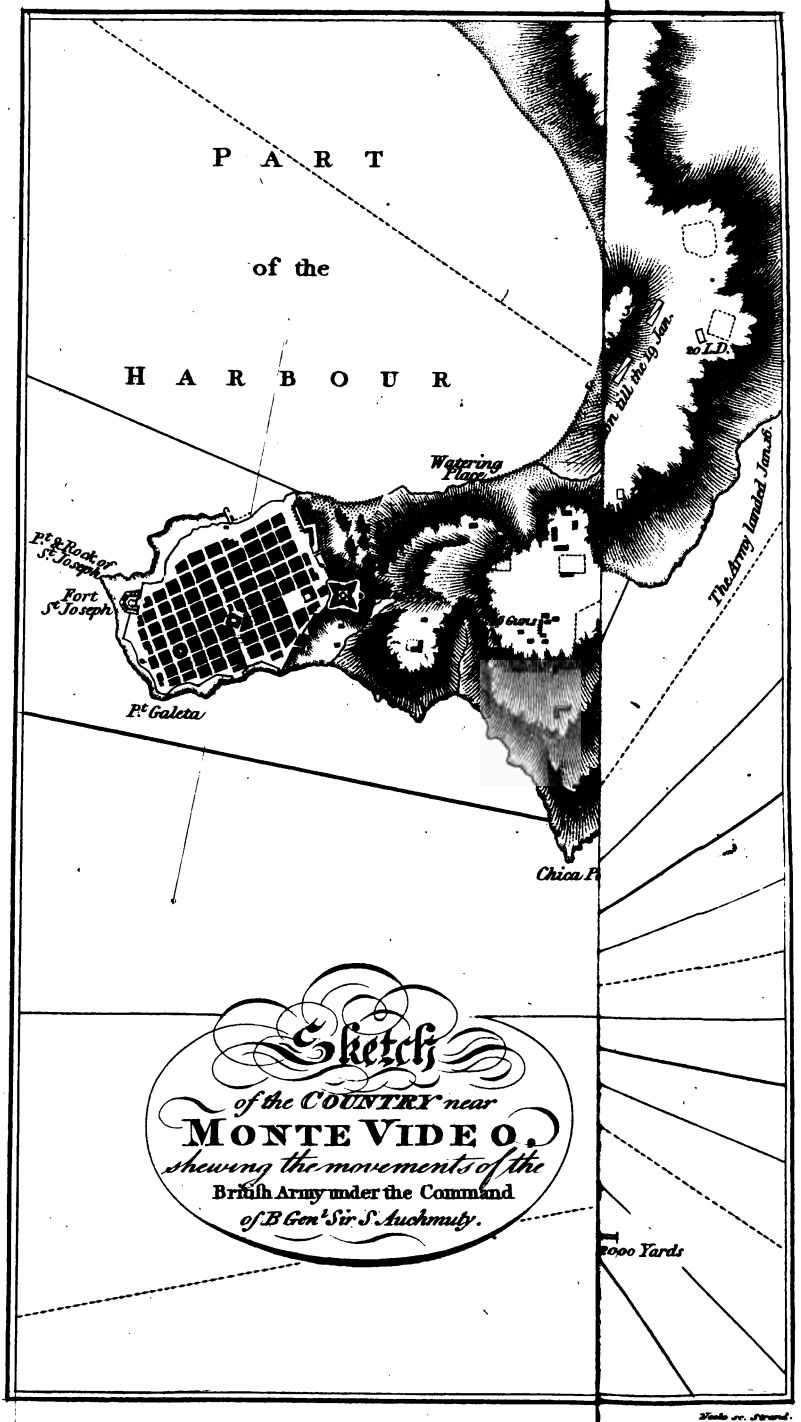
PART
of the
HARBOUR
Watering Place
Pt & Rock of St Joseph
Fort St Joseph
Pt Galeta
Chica Pt
The Army landed Jan 20
20 L.D.
Sketch
of the COUNTRY near
MONTE VIDEO,
shewing the movements of the
British Army under the Command
of B Gen Sir S Auchmuty.
2000 Yards

enemy, and occasional skirmishes took place at the out-posts.

On the morning of the 19th, the army began to move towards Monte Video. It was divided into two columns, the right under the direction of Brigadier-general Lumley, the left under Colonel Browne, and the reserve being commanded by Lieutenant-colonel Backhouse. The right was early opposed. About four thousand of the enemy's horse occupied two heights to the front and right of General Lumley. As the troops advanced, a heavy fire of round and grape was opened upon them; General Auchmuty's horse was killed under him, and twenty-five men were killed and wounded. A spirited charge, however, being made in front by the light battalion under Lieutenant-colonel Brownrigg, the corps opposed to him was dispersed with the loss of a gun.

The enemy on the flank retreated without waiting for a similar movement. They continued retiring, and permitted the British troops, without any further opposition, except a distant cannonade, to take a position about two miles from the citadel. Early in the day the advanced posts of the latter had possession of the suburbs of the town, where they were joined by Captain Donelly of the navy with a body of eight hundred marines and pikemen. Some small parties were posted close to the works, but in the evening, part of the suburbs was evacuated.

The next morning the enemy sallied from the town, and attacked the English with their whole force, about six thousand men and a number of guns. They advanced in two columns; the right consisting of cavalry to turn the left flank, while the other of infantry attacked the left of

the line. This column pushed in the advanced posts, and pressed so hard on the out-piquet of four hundred men, that Colonel Browne, who commanded on the left, ordered three companies of the 40th regiment under Major Campbell, to their support. These companies fell in with the head of the column, and charged it with great bravery. The charge was as gallantly received, and great numbers fell on both sides. The 40th had to lament, among others, the loss of Lieutenant Fitzpatrick, a promising young officer, who expired with the exclamation

Dulce et decorum est pro patriâ mori.

At length the hostile column began to give way, when it was suddenly and impetuously attacked in flank by the rifle corps and light battalion, which General Auchmuty had ordered up and directed to the particular point. The column now gave

way on all sides, and was pursued with great slaughter and the loss of a gun to the town. The right column, observing the fate of their companions, rapidly retired without coming into action.

The loss of the Spaniards in this affair was estimated at fifteen hundred men; their killed amounted to between two and three hundred; the English took a like number of prisoners, but the principal part of the wounded got back into the town. The loss of the conquerors was comparatively trifling, the killed and wounded not exceeding seventy-two.

The consequences of this action were of far greater importance than the victory itself. Many of the inhabitants of the country separated from the enemy's troops and retired to their homes, so that instead of being surrounded by horse and harassed

by a war of posts, Sir Samuel Auchmuty was allowed to sit quietly down before the town.

From the best information the general could obtain, he was led to believe that the defences of Monte Video were weak; and that the garrison was by no means disposed to make an obstinate resistance; but he found the works, on the contrary, truly respectable, mounted with one hundred and sixty pieces of cannon and ably defended.

The peninsula upon which stand the town and citadel of Monte Video is so strongly fortified, and its harbour is so completely protected by its own formidable batteries, and those of the island of Ratones, that any attempt to enter it with small vessels would have evinced insanity. The shallowness of the water precluded

the approach of large ships. Much effectual co-operation could not therefore be expected from the navy; but the characteristic courage of the seamen was, nevertheless, frequently demonstrated in the gallantry with which the frigates, gun-brigs, and armed transports, under the conduct of Captain Honeyman, of the Leda, attacked the town, in order to divert the enemy from annoying the troops in the construction of batteries. On the 23d, a two-gun battery was erected to keep them in check. The English posts were extended to the harbour, and thus completely shut in the garrison on the land side. Their communication was still, however, open by water, and their boats conveyed to them troops and provisions. Even water for the garrison was obtained by these means, for the wells that supply the town were in General Auchmuty's possession.

On the 25th, batteries of four twenty-four pounders and two mortars were opened, and all the frigates and smaller vessels stood in as close as they could with safety, and cannonaded the town. On the 28th, finding that the garrison was not intimidated into a surrender, the General constructed a battery of six twenty-four pounders, within a thousand yards of the south-east bastion of the citadel, which, he was informed, was in so weak a state that it might easily be breached. The parapet was soon in ruins, but the wall received very little injury, and General Auchmuty was soon convinced that his means were unequal to a regular siege. The only prospect of success that presented itself was, to erect a battery as near as possible to a wall by the south gate that joins the works to the sea, and endeavour to breach it. This was effected by a six-gun battery within six hundred yards,

and though it was exposed to a very superior fire from the Spaniards, which had been incessant during the whole of the siege, a breach was reported practicable on the 2nd of February.

Many reasons induced the British commander not to delay the assault, though he was aware that the troops would be exposed to a very heavy fire in approaching and mounting the breach. He had received information that Liniers was approaching with a formidable force of eight thousand men for the purpose of compelling him to raise the siege; the army was in great want of entrenching tools, and the stock of powder both on board and on shore was diminished to an alarming degree. Urged by these considerations, General Auchmuty, on the evening of the 2d, summoned the field officers of the corps to be employed in the assault, to

meet him to receive their instructions. He directed the grenadiers of the army to be embodied for the purpose of storming, and placed them under the command of Major Campbell of the 40th, and Major Tucker of the 72d regiment. The advance or forlorn was given to the conduct of Lieutenant Everard of the 2d, who had expressed great anxiety to obtain this very dangerous but distinguished post of honor. The rest of the troops destined for the assault consisted of the rifle corps under Major Gardiner, the light infantry under Lieutenant-colonel Brownrigg and Major Trotter, and the 38th regiment under Lieutenant-colonel Vassal and Major Nugent. They were supported by the 40th regiment under Major Dalrymple, and the 87th under Lieutenant-colonel Butler and Major Miller. The whole were placed under the command of Colonel Browne. The remainder of the Bri-

tish force, composed of the 17th light dragoons, detachments of the 20th and 21st light dragoons, the 47th regiment, a company of the 71st, and a corps of seven hundred marines and seamen, were encamped under Brigadier-general Lumley to protect the rear. Orders were issued for the attack an hour before day-break the ensuing morning, and a summons was sent to the governor in the evening to surrender the town. To this message, however, no answer was returned.

At two o'clock in the morning of the 3d of February, the General pointed to the breach, distant about sixteen hundred yards; and in solemn silence the troops advanced to the assault. They approached near to the breach before they were discovered, when a destructive fire from every gun that could bear upon it and from the musketry of the garrison opened upon

them. Heavy as it was, the loss of the assailants would have been comparatively trifling if the breach had remained open, but during the night, and under the fire of the British, the besieged had barricaded it with hides, so as to render it nearly impracticable. The night was extremely dark; the head of the column missed the breach, and when it was approached, it was so shut up as to be mistaken for the entrenched wall. In this situation the troops remained under a heavy fire for a quarter of an hour, when the breach was discerned by Captain Renny of the 40th light infantry, who pointed it out and gloriously fell as he mounted it. This discovery once made, the gallant troops wanted not a cheering voice like that of our Fifth Henry to exclaim:

> Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more,
> Or close the wall up with the English dead!

They rushed to it; no difficulties could restrain their impetuosity, and they quickly forced their way into the town. Cannon were placed at the head of the principal streets, and with the musketry, discharged from the windows and tops of houses, made great havoc among the assailants. Lieutenant-colonels Brownrigg and Vassal fell mortally wounded. Undismayed by this slaughter the troops advanced in all directions, clearing the streets and batteries with their bayonets, and overturning the cannon. The 40th regiment with Colonel Browne followed. They also missed the breach and twice passed through the fire of the batteries, with the loss of their brave commander, Major Dalrymple, before they found it. The 87th regiment was posted near the north gate, which the troops who entered at the breach were to have opened for it; but such was the ardour of the men that they

would not wait, but scaling the walls, entered the town, as the troops within were approaching to admit them. By daylight the English were in possession of every thing except the citadel, which made a shew of resistance, but soon surrendered at discretion. A circumstance which redounds in no small degree to the honour of the conquerors is, that early the same morning the shops were open, and the inhabitants of both sexes were peaceably walking the streets in pursuit of their various avocations.

As soon as the citadel was in the possession of the British troops, the armed launches of the squadron were sent to dislodge the enemy from the island of Ratones, defended by ten guns and seventy men, who surrendered without resistance. A fine frigate of 28 guns was set on fire by her crew, and blew up with a tremendous ex-

plosion. Three gun-boats were likewise burned by the Spaniards, but the exertions of the English seamen saved all the other ships in the harbour, 57 in number, of which ten mounted from 10 to 28 guns.

The total loss of the conquerors, in this atchievement, so glorious to the British arms, fell very little short of six hundred men. In the breach alone 386 were killed and wounded, and among these were many excellent officers. At the storming of the place, eight hundred of the Spaniards were killed, and five hundred wounded. The Governor, Don Pasquil Ruis Huidobro, with upwards of two thousand officers and men were made prisoners, and about fifteen hundred escaped in boats or secreted themselves in the town.

The first care of Sir Samuel Auchmuty, after gaining possession of Monte Video,

was to detach parties into the country, to watch any attempts on the part of the Spaniards, and to protect such of the inhabitants as might be disposed to supply the markets of the town. A detachment of two hundred men took possession of Canalon, about twenty miles distant, and another was posted at St. Lucie, about twenty miles further up the country. The light battalion, and the three companies of the rifle corps, were sent in vessels up the river to Colonia del Sacramento, opposite to Buenos Ayres, of which they possessed themselves without opposition. The enemy at different times attempted to disturb these posts, but against Colonia their efforts seemed to be particularly directed. No serious attempt, however, was made till the beginning of June, when two thousand choice troops, under the command of one of their ablest officers crossed the river from Buenos

Ayres. This corps encamped on the 6th of that month at St. Pedro, about fourteen miles above Colonia. The troops at this post were now commanded by Lieutenant-colonel Pack, who had been taken prisoner with General Beresford, and had made his escape with his gallant chief, on the infraction of the terms of the capitulation by the Spaniards. Being apprized of the approach of the enemy, he determined to march out to meet them, and on the morning of the 7th, came in view of their force drawn up on the opposite side of a small river. This he instantly forded with his men and advanced briskly to the charge. The Spanish cavalry soon gave way; but the infantry manifested a determination to meet the English bayonet; a view of which, however, at the distance of eighty yards, so appalled them, that after giving their fire, they fled in all directions, throwing away their arms and

accoutrements. The conquerors being greatly fatigued by their march, took only one hundred prisoners, among whom was the second in command; but one standard and the whole of the Spanish artillery, consisting of six field pieces fell into their hands. After this exploit performed with the loss of only two men killed, Colonel Pack returned in the evening to Colonia.

On the 10th of May, the Thisbe frigate arrived at Monte Video. She brought out Lieutenant-general Whitelocke as Commander in Chief of the British forces in South America, and he was accompanied by Major-general Gower as second in command. The Thisbe had left England in March with several transports, having troops on board for the same destination.

It has already been observed that a detachment of two hundred men was stationed at Canalon. Lieutenant-colonel Backhouse, who commanded there, had received from the enemy a summons to surrender, accompanied with a threat, that in case of refusal he should be attacked by a force of fourteen hundred men. He thought it prudent to retire, and was met near Monte Video by Colonel Mahon of the 9th light dragoons, who was detached onthe 12th of June to his support. The Spaniards being apprized of the approach of Colonel Mahon, retired; and he, being unable to overtake them, returned on the 14th to Monte Video.

On the last mentioned day, the force which sailed from England in the preceding November, under Brigadier-general Craufurd, arrived at Monte Video. Rear-

admiral Murray, who had conveyed it from the Cape of Good Hope, assumed the chief command of the British squadron in the Rio de la Plata.

Every preparation was immediately made to proceed with all possible expedition against Buenos Ayres. The works of Monte Video having been put into a temporary state of repair, one company of artillery, two squadrons of dragoons, the 47th regiment of infantry, and a party of marines, under the command of Colonel Browne, were deemed sufficient to defend Monte Video against any attempt, while the main body of the army was acting against Buenos Ayres.

The embarkation of the troops being effected they proceeded up the river, and having previously taken on board the detachment stationed at Colonia, came to

an anchor on the 27th of June near Ensenada, below Buenos Ayres, and distant about thirty-two miles from that city. The landing commenced at day-light on the 28th without opposition, or even the appearance of an enemy. The army had been divided into four brigades, commanded by Brigadier-generals Lumley, Auchmuty, Craufurd, and the Honourable Colonel Mahon. The light brigade, under General Craufurd, was the first that landed. As the only spot which admitted the approach of boats was of small extent, it was dark before all the troops could get on shore. The light brigade, and that under Sir Samuel Auchmuty, pushed forward to a ridge about four miles from the river, but were obliged to take a circuitous rout through Ensenada, in order to avoid an extensive morass covering nearly the whole space between the shore and the rising ground. Brigadier-general Lum-

ley's and part of Colonel Mahon's brigade occupied the huts of Ensenada and some detached houses in the neighbourhood.

The advanced guard was entrusted, during the march, to Major-general Gower, the second in command. About half way between the landing place and the village, the troops found an enclosed battery, but which, as well as two or three vessels lying close to the shore, had been dismantled and abandoned. At the village, which had also been forsaken by its inhabitants, were procured some horses, which served to mount the staff officers and a few dragoons; two light field-pieces, which had been landed, being drawn by thirty-six seamen, who attended the whole march for that purpose. Here also General Gower found an American, who had resided many years in the neigh-

bourhood of Buenos Ayres, and agreed to serve him as a guide to that city.

On the heights of Ensenada, General Gower remained till the 29th, when the Commander in Chief joined him with the other divisions of the army; and having occupied his ground, ordered him to proceed to a position some miles nearer to Buenos Ayres. The same day an alteration was made in his force; two regiments, under Brigadier-general Lumley, being substituted for two others which had previously constituted part of the advanced guard. The troops were without cover for the night, which was very favourable, and the railing which formed the inclosures for cattle in the neighbourhood, furnished abundance of fuel. General Lumley having taken the precaution to bring, from Monde Video, several of the country people accustomed to the

catching of cattle, his brigade was always well supplied with fresh meat. Lieutenant-colonel Bourke was left behind to hasten the disembarkation of the artillery and stores, which was accomplished on the evening of the 29th, and the following day they proceeded to the heights after the army.

On the morning of the 30th General Gower marched towards the village of Reduction, having under his orders four companies of the 98th regiment, the light battalion under Brigadier-general Craufurd, the 36th and 88th regiments under Brigadier-general Lumley, four six and two three-pounders, and some mounted cavalry. General Whitelocke ordered the dismounted part of the 17th light dragoons and the 40th regiment to remain on the heights under Colonel Mahon, to escort the artillery, when it should come up.

He then moved forward with the main body about five miles, and the army was stationed at three farm-houses about two miles distant from each other. The advanced guard having proceeded about nine miles, in which the line of march was crossed by several streams and swampy spots, halted in detached parties without any view to regular formation, as the light troops had pretty well examined the country, and no enemy appeared but a few scattered horsemen, apparently unarmed, who kept hovering round. Some skirmishing in the course of the day did not extend beyond a few shots from the advanced parties. The position occupied at night by General Gower was about seven or eight miles from Riochuelo, from which he was separated by very flat and marshy grounds. The artillery this day reached the heights, but the seamen and horses were too

much fatigued to bring it forward. No communication was kept up between the army and the fleet, which had moved up the river towards Buenos Ayres.

On the 1st of July the main body broke up before sun-rise, and joined General Gower about eleven o'clock. The whole now moved forward with more order and regularity, as it was expected that some attempt would be made to dispute the ground which the army was approaching. It marched in three divisions but in the same road. The light brigade led with the two three-pounders; it was followed at the distance of about a mile and a half by General Lumley's, with the two six-pounders, and the main body, under the Commander in Chief, brought up the rear. The right flank of this line of march was completely protected by the morass abovementioned, and the left was

covered by the rifle corps. No apprehensions were indeed entertained, except for such men as should drop out of the line of march through fatigue or other causes, as the country people hovered round and were sure of cutting off such stragglers. The troops were much impeded in their march by several streams with soft, muddy bottoms, and some marshy spots; and had these been disputed by a spirited enemy, the army would have been exposed to no small loss and difficulty in forcing them, as it could form but a very narrow front over those places. About two o'clock the men were ordered to throw away their blankets, that they might proceed with greater expedition to the village of Reduction, which it was intended to reach this day, and the possession of which would, it was supposed, be disputed. This place is situated about seven miles from

Buenos Ayres, and two from La Plata. It consists of a church and a few mean detached houses, but has a good natural position for defence. As the light brigade approached the place, a small body of Spanish horsemen appeared. They were dispersed by a shot from the field-pieces, and the ground was gained without opposition, the enemy having entirely evacuated it, and concentrated their strength on the west side of the Riochuelo, which runs below Buenos Ayres. The troops now came in sight of that capital, and their spirits were not a little cheered by the first view of the object which they expected to reward them amply for all their toils. The advanced brigades pushed on to a position two miles beyond Reduction, which was occupied by General Whitelocke with the remainder of the army. Except a false alarm or two, the troops received no molestation from the

enemy, but they enjoyed very little repose, being exposed to heavy rain, accompanied with thunder and lightning. This circumstance was the more unfortunate, as the men required some rest after a fatiguing and uncomfortable march; and that of the next day promised to be equally harassing. The fires of the Spaniards under the town could plainly be discerned, and, added to the conflagration of some ships burned in the river, to prevent their falling into the hands of the English, produced a grand effect. One large blaze under the town was supposed to proceed from the bridge across the Riochuelo, but this the enemy never attempted to destroy.

At sun-rise on the 2d of July, the advanced guard were under arms, and orders were given for those men who could not undergo a fatiguing march to fall out and

join the rear. General Gower had been directed by the Commander-in-chief to cross the Riochuelo at the first ford which he should find practicable above the bridge. Conformably with this order, he wheeled to the left, and presenting his right flank to the Riochuelo, began to ascend the river towards the Chico pass, about five miles from its mouth. This direction he pursued through some marshy ground and over several streams, when a body of Spanish horse formed as if to oppose the head of the column. This hostile corps consisted of about six hundred, and was supported on its right by a small wood, and on the left by some marshy ground. The light brigade immediately formed into line; its right being covered by General Lumley's which remained in open column. The rifle corps filed to the left to clear the wood and obtain possession; which being accomplished, the

light pieces began to play on the enemy, who, after two or three rounds dispersed, and suffered General Gower to continue his march without further molestation. Inclining to the right he soon arrived at the Chico-ford, about four feet deep and thirty yards over. There was no enemy on the opposite side of the river; the current was not rapid with a bottom of firm gravel. The ford was instantly passed; the ammunition-waggon belonging to the three-pounders being carried over on men's shoulders. Having thus surmounted what was expected to prove the most formidable obstruction to their march, the brigades of Generals Lumley and Craufurd advanced towards the ridge, at the northern extremity of which Buenos Ayres is situated. On gaining it, the eyes of the troops were anxiously directed over the extensive plain they had passed, in expectation of seeing themselves follow-

ed by the main body of the army under General Whitelocke; but to their mortification they discovered no appearance of troops in their rear. They soon gained the foot of the rising ground, and the riflemen with some of the light brigade began to scour the thick hedges and other cover which the gardens and orange-groves, occupying the whole of the ridge, afforded to the enemy. The brigades had to advance in sections up a narrow and broken road, and when General Craufurd's had attained the summit, he wheeled to the left to attain a favourable position, which had been pointed out to him. The firing was now pretty sharp in the advance, but the enemy's piquets were soon driven in by the rapid movements of this column. No indications of an enemy appearing, the parties covering the head of the light brigade were called in, and in a few minutes it arrived at the angle of an open space, called

the Coral de Miserere, where a halt was called to wait for the field-pieces which were at some distance in the rear. Not a Spaniard was in view; but their neighbourhood was soon announced by a sudden discharge of grape and round-shot from guns placed in several parts of the open ground. The men were for a moment staggered at this unexpected attack, but, instantly recovering themselves, not a moment was lost in obeying General Craufurd's orders to charge the enemy. With three cheers they advanced smartly in the form of a crescent, nearly surrounding the enemy's guns, which were soon abandoned by the Spaniards, who, dismayed at this movement, fled in every direction. Those lining the hedges dispersed with the others, on seeing their artillery, consisting of ten brass field-pieces and a howitzer, in the possession of their assailants. Many of the fugitives were dis-

patched with the bayonet, and General Craufurd continued the pursuit with his brigade, till he reached the heads of some of the streets of Buenos Ayres, where he formed in expectation of General Gower, who was behind with General Lumley's brigade. The loss of the conquerors in this affair was but trifling, as the enemy's artillery was directed over their heads.

The light brigade had moved on so briskly after attaining the ridge, as to leave the other at a considerable distance. General Gower was, therefore, at a loss to follow, and made repeated enquiries after the light brigade, whose position was, at last, pointed out by an officer of the rifle corps, as well as by the sound of the cannon and musketry with which it had been engaged. General Craufurd was employed in forming his men, who, from the nature of the ground and the suddenness of

the action were in some disorder, when he received an order from General Gower to fall back to the Coral, or slaughtering place, where he then was. It was now dusk; the brigades of Generals Lumley and Craufurd were formed in two lines, and were expecting the order to advance into the town, particularly as some companies had been detached on the flanks, with an apparent view of covering such a movement. General Craufurd, confident of its success, desired the officer who brought him directions to fall back, to request General Gower's permission to pursue the enemy into the city; but in answer to this he received a second and peremptory order to retire to the Coral. All the information afterwards obtained, proved, however, that this measure, if adopted, would have been crowned with complete success, and have been attended with little if any loss. The vexation of

the troops, therefore, when ordered to retire, can scarcely be conceived; they retired, in silence, to the Coral, about a mile and a half from the skirts of the town. Here they laid on their arms, having piquets at the heads of the streets. The night was a dreadful one for the troops, who were drenched in rain and exhausted with fatigue and hunger, not having taken any refreshment for the preceding twelve hours. It was, however, borne with patience, the men's spirits having been elevated by the victory they had atchieved, and the expectation of crowning their wishes early in the morning by entering Buenos Ayres.

On examination of the prisoners who had been taken by the light brigade, it appeared that the whole Spanish force, amounting to about nine thousand men, had expected the invaders at the bridge

over the Riochuelo, where they had strongly entrenched themselves, and brought together above fifty pieces of cannon, with a determination to defend this pass to the last extremity. On learning that the English were avoiding the bridge, they dispatched about six thousand men in two columns; one to check them at a ford between the bridge and Chico; the other to move along the heights and observe their motions above that pass. When the British troops had gained the western side of the Riochuelo, the first of these columns was ordered to retire, and occupy the position where it was routed by the light brigade. The other column, fearing lest its retreat should be cut off, took a circuitous route, and at a late hour, regained the city. Those of the Spanish troops that had been left at the bridge were called in, with what cannon they could bring; the rest having been previously spiked and destroyed.

General Liniers, the Commander in Chief of the Spanish forces at Buenos Ayres, was with the routed division, and as the victors were afterwards informed by one of his Aid-de-camps, he was obliged to pass a great part of the night within their line of sentries, his retreat having been intercepted by the brisk advance of the troops.

> There is a tide in the affairs of men,
> Which taken at the flood leads on to fortune;
> Omitted, all the voyage of their life
> Is bound in shallows and in miseries.

Such is the observation of one of the greatest masters of human nature that ever existed, and the British commanders who conducted this expedition were destined to exhibit a fatal proof of its justice. The advanced guard had, as we have seen, defeated a considerable portion of the Spanish force; the dispersion of three thousand of their best troops at the

town had thrown terror and dismay among the inhabitants, and their confusion was increased by the absence of their leader. Instead of being supported by the main body of the army, and thus enabled with the greater security to follow up their success, they were obliged to fall back from the theatre of their victory, while the Commander in Chief, as if fearful of sharing in their laurels, chose to make a very circuitous route to the same spot. The consequence was, that the Spaniards had abundant time to recover from their alarm, the ardour of the assailants was suffered to cool, and such preparations were made by the enemy, as, combined with the imbecility of the British General, terminated in defeat and disgrace.

We now turn to the proceedings of the main body of the army under General Whitelocke, on the 2d of July. It had

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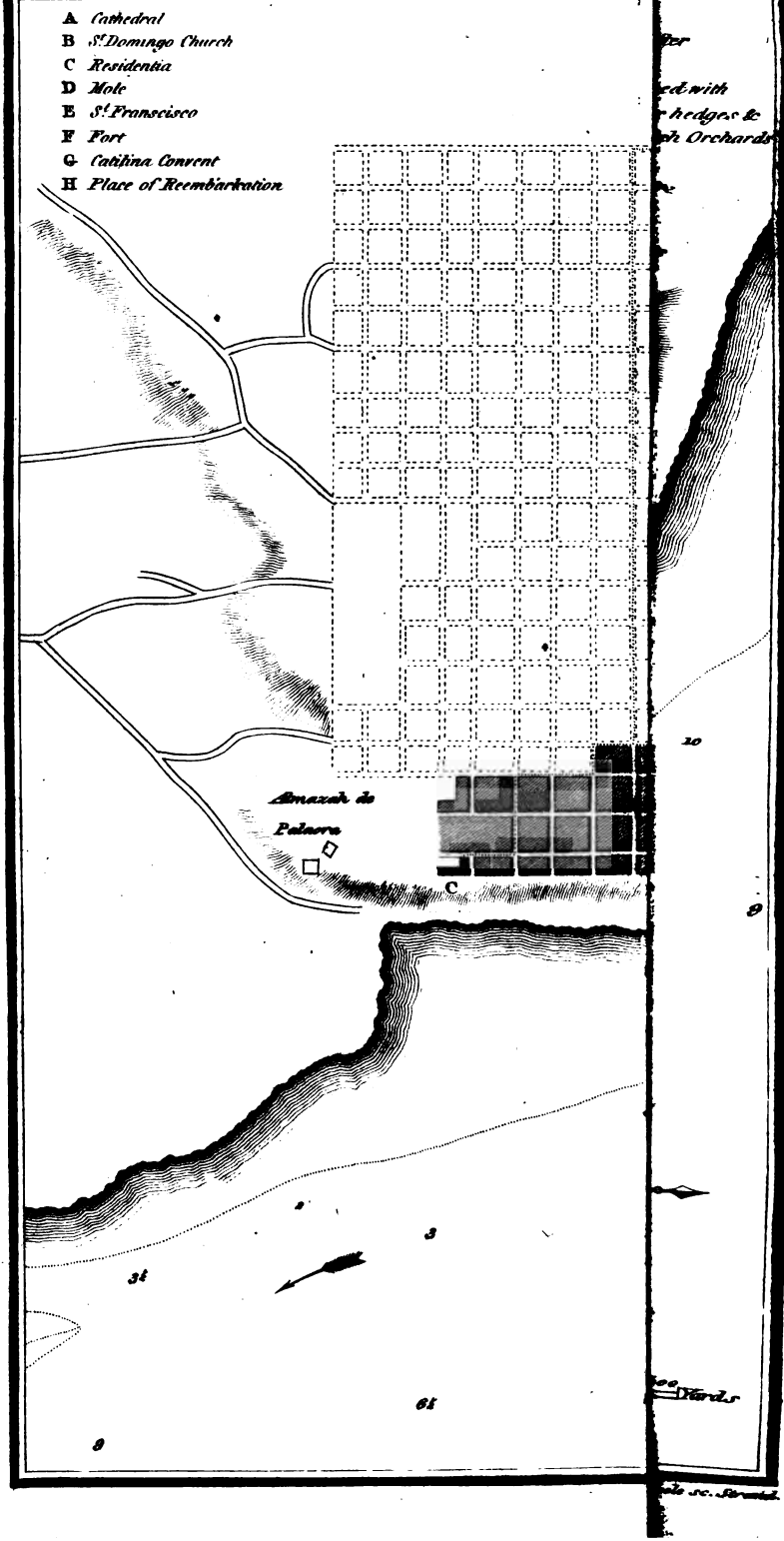
A Cathedral
B St. Domingo Church
C Residentia
D Mole
E St. Transcisco
F Fort
G Catilina Convent
H Place of Reembarkation
Almazah de
Palavra
C
10
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Yards

passed the night at the village of Reduction, and had suffered considerably from fatigue and hunger; in addition to which the troops were never dry during the march, the ground being intersected by swamps and creeks through which they were obliged to wade. On the morning of the 2d, provisions were just ready to be distributed, when the General gave orders to beat to arms and to leave the meat, then ready to be cut in pieces, on the ground. The march commenced about ten o'clock; but instead of following the track of the advanced corps, as had been at first proposed, the troops were conducted to the left. The first part of the march was good; but this was succeeded by low swampy ground, with a very difficult pass, and the men had to wade a considerable distance in water. Immediately on leaving the swamp, it being then near three o'clock, the Commander in Chief sent for

General Auchmuty, and asked his opinion about proceeding. He observed, that he had been deceived by his guide, that the ford at which he proposed to cross the Riochuelo, was still, by his account, many miles off, so that there was no chance of reaching it before night; that he had secured cattle for the troops, and that where he then was, the troops might find sufficient fuel to cook their provisions. General Auchmuty, knowing that the troops were completely exhausted, gave his opinion in favour of halting, and as they began to manifest signs of discontent, at his suggestion, an order was issued by the General, encouraging the men to do their duty cheerfully. The army was accordingly halted, and an order was sent to Colonel Mahon, who brought up the rear with the artillery, to remain with his division at Reduction, till he received further instructions. The position occupied by the main body of the army on the night

of the 2d, was about ten miles from that of the advanced guard under General Gower.

At day light on the morning of the 3d, General Whitelocke continued his march in the same direction as on the preceding day, in order to turn the Riochuelo, near its source. The rain that had fallen during the night, and still continued, had rendered the country which was low, and sometimes swampy, nearly impassable. About noon the troops forded the Riochuelo, after which a march of two hours brought them to the Coral de Miserere, where the advanced guard was posted.

It appeared that early the same morning parties had been detached from the latter to search the adjacent houses for provisions and arms. These parties brought in many prisoners who were found in the

houses, after throwing off their uniforms and concealing their arms. In the mean time in compliance with orders from the Commander in Chief, General Gower sent an officer into the town with a flag of truce. He was the bearer of a verbal summons to the Spanish General, requiring the surrender of the place to his Britannic Majesty's arms. To this, Liniers, who had escaped into the town before day-light, replied that he could hold no communication with the English General but in writing. Accordingly, Captain Roach, Brigade-major to General Lumley, was dispatched a second time with a letter, containing the terms which the Commander in Chief was willing to grant. To these proposals the Spaniards refused to listen; and Captain Roach returned with the intelligence that the enemy were advancing from the town to attack General Gower in his position, and that

the troops composing their columns were in a state of intoxication. In consequence of this information the advanced posts were reinforced, and the troops formed in the best order for applying the bayonet, in case the enemy should approach near enough to permit the use of it. The English piquets retired by degrees as the enemy forced in upon them in an extended line, under cover of the hedges and gardens. They did not, however, appear in any compact body, and after keeping up this skirmishing above two hours, they again retired into the town. This affair was attended with some loss on the part of the English, and the Spaniards suffered considerably from the fire of the riflemen, numbers of them lying dead or wounded in every enclosure.

While the advanced guard was thus expecting the enemy in its position, Gene-

ral Whitelocke made his appearance with Sir Samuel Auchmuty's and part of Colonel Mahon's brigade. The Commander in Chief, on the arrival of his column, ordered the whole to be formed in prolongation of the line previously occupied by the brigades of Generals Lumley and Craufurd. In this position the army remained till the enemy had totally disappeared, when the troops were marched to different quarters in the neighbourhood, where the men were placed under cover. The advanced posts occupied the same ground as on the former night.

On the 4th the troops took up the position they had occupied the day before, and the same kind of skirmishing took place. About noon the rifle corps, having expended their ammunition, General Lumley's brigade was ordered to relieve them. They occupied the rear of the

houses and orchards on the borders of the town, where the fire continued very brisk above two hours. During this time the Spaniards forced in the posts on the left, occupied by the 36th regiment; by which movement they took the 38th on that flank and in the rear, by which that regiment was severely galled, till the enemy was dislodged by the fire of a six-pounder, which was brought up against the cover where they were posted, and forced them to retire. About four o'clock this firing ceased, and at dusk the carabineers and 9th light dragoons, who had this day come up from Reduction, took the advanced duties for the night. The troops engaged had many officers and men wounded, and several were left dead on the field.

The object of the operations of this day was not very obvious to the army.

It sustained considerable loss by occupying an advanced position, which afforded a covered approach to the Spaniards, who could come at pleasure from the interior of the town and insult these piquets. Had the advanced posts been withdrawn one or two hundred yards more to the rear, the open space between them and the skirts of the town would have given a full view of the approach of any who might have ventured to quit the streets. The disputed ground might with ease have been occupied, if necessary, during the night, when the Spaniards regularly concentrated their whole force within the precincts of the castle. Besides, the occupation of this ground could not become an object of importance, till it had been determined to push the columns into the town, when they would thus be enabled to enter the heads of the streets without molestation.

It had been at one time the intention of the commanders of the British army to attack the town on the 4th at noon; but on the representation of General Auchmuty, that, in his opinion, mid-day was an improper time to march through the streets of a populous city, and that the troops would penetrate further without serious loss, if the attack were deferred till dawn of the following day: the superior officers acknowledged the force of his objections, and the assault was accordingly put off till the next morning.

Before we proceed to the details of the attack on Buenos Ayres, it may not be amiss to introduce a brief notice respecting the situation of the principal points against which the assault was directed, as well as of the preparations that were made for the defence of the city.

The streets of Buenos Ayres are rectangular, forming lots about one hundred paces square. It is situated on the Rio de la Plata, from which it is separated by a low unoccupied space, about one hundred yards wide. In the centre of the town, on the face next the river, is the castle, a square work, about one hundred paces on the exterior polygon, and flanked with small bastions. This fortress contains the residence of the governor and other spacious buildings. The great square separates the castle from the town, and is about two hundred paces in length and one in breadth. The south face contains the cathedral, a large edifice, with a lofty dome and parapet. All the houses in this neighbourhood are lofty, and surrounded with parapets above four feet in height; which circumstances give those in possession of the faces of this square a complete command over the

castle. At the north-west angle of the town, and close to the river, is another extensive opening, called La Plaza de los Toros, in which stands El Retiro, a spacious building erected for the exhibition of bull-fights. Between this edifice and the river are situated other larger buildings of brick, which are used for the purposes of an arsenal. El Retiro is about one thousand yards from the castle. Eastward of the Great Square is another open space, in which are barracks, and nearly opposite to these, the convent and church of St. Domingo, the principal religious edifice in Buenos Ayres next to the cathedral. At the eastern extremity of the town is situated an extensive structure, originally designed for a royal hospital, and called Residentia. The city is about two miles long and one broad; the ground rising gradually from the river to its southern boundary; so that the posses-

sion of this ridge and of El Retiro gives the command of the whole city.

At the time of the landing of the British army at Ensenada, few preparations had been made for the immediate defence of the interior of the town. The Spaniards placed their chief dependence on being able to prevent the passage of the invaders over the bridge of the Riochuelo. Here they had assembled the whole of their disciplined force, and also their transportable artillery, amounting to fifty-two pieces. We have already seen what measures they adopted on finding that it was not the intention of the English generals to force a passage at that spot, and the consternation which seized the inhabitants of the city on the defeat of one of their columns by General Craufurd's division. They prepared to receive the English as their conquerors, but the re-

trograde movement of the latter allowed them time for recollection. Their commanders ordered in the division from the bridge, with what cannon they could draw, leaving the remainder in an useless condition. This ordnance was placed in the best manner for defending the streets leading from the ground occupied by the assailants, and the Plaza de los Toros, where, as the most important positions, their best troops were stationed. Trenches were cut in the principal streets near the Great Square, and cannon placed to flank them. Other pieces were mounted on the citadel to cover the approach by the river. Besides those means of defence, others, perhaps not less efficient, were resorted to. The ministers of religion so successfully endeavoured to inflame the prejudices and passions of the people, that even women were inspired with the general enthusiasm, and took an active part in re-

pelling the invaders. One female was killed in man's uniform. A great portion of the slaves, whom it had before been deemed unsafe to trust with arms, were now provided with a rude kind of pikes, composed of blades of knives attached to long canes. The numbers thus employed in defending the interior of the city were computed at about nine thousand regulars, militia and volunteers in some state of discipline, and six thousand in irregular companies. Of these five thousand of the best marksmen occupied the houses in which they were barricaded, and amply supplied with provisions and ammunition; two thousand occupied El Retiro and the vicinity, while the others were distributed in the castle to be employed as occasion should require.

It was in the face of such preparations, that four thousand five hundred British

soldiers were ordered to enter the town by force on the morning of the 5th of July. About four o'clock the troops were under arms; but, owing to various delays, it was day-light before the different columns were formed at the heads of the streets through which they were to penetrate into the town. Their disposition was as follows:

The 45th infantry -	Lieut.-colonel Guard.
The carabineers -	Lieut.-colonel Kington.
The light brigade, in two wings, under	Brigadier-gen. Craufurd Lieutenant-col. Pack.
The 88th regiment in two wings, under	Lieutenant-col. Duff Major Vandeleur.
The 36th regiment in two wings, under	Lieutenant-col. Byrne Captain Cross.
The 5th regiment, in two wings, under	Lieutenant-col. Davie the Hon. Major King
The 87th regiment, in two wings, under	Sir S. Auchmuty Major Miller
The 38th regiment	Lieutenant-col. Nugent.

The 45th infantry were directed against the Residentia, where they were to maintain themselves. General Craufurd was to penetrate to the church of St. Domingo,

and to take possession of that edifice, as also of the neighbouring houses, in conjunction with Lieutenant-colonel Pack, who led the left wing of the light brigade, which took its two three-pounders along with it into the town. The 87th were ordered to move down the two streets to the right of El Retiro, and the 38th in single column were to attack that building, after turning the left of the town. The other columns were to penetrate to the river, but they were provided with no instructions beyond that point. None of them were made acquainted with the means of communicating with the others, or to what point to retreat in case they experienced too powerful a resistance. In a word, the officers were as unprovided with the necessary instructions for conducting their divisions as they were ignorant of the plans of their chief. The columns had been ordered to take with them some of their en-

trenching tools, but these were little qualified to overcome the obstacles which the troops had to encounter.

The men were all anxious to move forward, while darkness should contribute to conceal their approach; but the sun was rising before some field-pieces in the centre gave the signal to advance; upon which the columns were immediately put in motion. Generals Whitelocke and Gower remained with the centre of the army at the Coral de Miserere, and it was not till the morning of the 5th that Colonel Mahon received directions from the Commander-in-chief to advance with his brigade, amounting to about 1800 men, from Reduction towards Buenos Ayres.

To commence with the operations on the right, the 45th infatry, under Lieutenant-colonel Guard, moved forward at

the appointed signal in two columns, each consisting of four companies. The Colonel commanded the right wing himself, and the left was under the direction of Major Nicolls. Having proceeded about three quarters of a mile the columns met, in consequence of the junction of the two roads which they had taken, and Colonel Guard, in conformity with his orders, was obliged to make a considerable detour to the right; so that he did not reach the Residentia, which post he was directed to occupy, till a few minutes after the left wing, which he found engaged in breaking open the doors of that building. Having obtained possession, with but little loss, of that extensive edifice, it was soon crowned with the colours of the regiment. Perceiving three houses in the vicinity which it seemed advisable to possess, Colonel Guard moved forward with his wing, and selecting three of them, left a company in each and re-

turned with the grenadiers to the Residentia. Hearing a considerable firing on the left, the Colonel directed Major Nicholls to make the necessary arrangements for maintaining himself in the Residentia, and marched at the head of his grenadiers, with the intention of reconnoitring the situation of Brigadier-general Craufurd's brigade, and returning immediately to his post. In his progress through a street which led to the great square, the Colonel came to a very large house which he thought it prudent to occupy with a small detachment. An attempt was instantly made to break open the door; but finding it attended with difficulty, the Colonel sent back his adjutant, with a few file of men to the Residentia, to obtain the assistance of the tools which had been left there. He had scarcely returned, when Colonel Guard was joined by the piquet of the regiment, which had missed him in the

morning, and had entered the town with the light battalion. The officer commanding it brought orders from General Craufurd to charge down the street with the grenadiers supported by the piquet. This was accordingly done, and for some time Colonel Guard experienced no opposition except from a heavy piece of ordnance placed at the upper end of the street. As he advanced, however, towards the centre of the town, he found the tops of the houses crowded with the enemy, who opened a smart fire of musketry upon him as he passed. Having gone about half a mile, the increased fire rendered it extremely difficult to proceed. Colonel Guard, therefore, drew off his men into a street on the right, and seeing Colonel Pack approaching with a corps of the light battalion towards the church of St. Domingo, he crossed the street to consult that officer on the practicability of advanc-

ing further towards the square. The latter informed him it would be impossible to reach that point without sacrificing the greater part of his detachment, on which he returned to his men and found General Craufurd with several companies of light infantry and riflemen, together with a field-piece in the same street. Under his orders Colonel Guard remained and consequently shared the fate of his detachment.

After Colonel Guard's departure from the Residentia, the Spaniards made repeated attempts to recover that post, but Major Nicholls had so well disposed of part of his men on the top of the buildings, and sallied out so opportunely with others, that he constantly repulsed them and took four pieces of cannon. The British colours remained flying on the Residentia, until it was evacuated by the 45th in consequence of the negotiation.

The 6th dragoon guards under Lieutenant-colonel Kington advanced with the other columns, but missing their way, did not arrive till seven o'clock at the entrance of the city, where they found two troops of the 9th light dragoons with two field-pieces. These Colonel Kington took under his direction, and for some time advanced without the least opposition. The enemy then opened their fire upon the column, and the further it proceeded the more heavy and destructive it became. Colonel Kington having received a severe wound in the leg, and Captain Burrell being killed, their men were obliged to retire, leaving their commander in the hands of the enemy. The retreating column was met by Captain Foster, General Whitelocke's aid-de-camp, who recommended to Captain Davenport, on whom the command had devolved, to return to a square which he mentioned. This was

effected, and Captain Davenport took possession of a house in a very commanding situation. Placing a piquet of eighty men at the further extremity of the square, and the two field-pieces opposite to the only two avenues leading to it, he maintained himself in this post for two days, till he received orders from Lieutenant-colonel Bradford, the deputy adjutent-general, to evacuate and rejoin the army out of the town.

The right wing of the light brigade, consisting of four companies of the light battalion and four of the 95th, making about five hundred and forty rank and file, under Brigadier-general Craufurd, moved down the street on the right of the church of St. Domingo. General Craufurd was directed to penetrate to the river, and there to occupy any of the high buildings as near as possible to the market-

place. The column received the fire of several guns on its left flank, but not sufficient opposition to arrest its progress to the banks of the river. Here, on turning its left, it entered an open space, in which it became dreadfully exposed to the fire of musketry from the neighbouring houses. The advanced party lost above half of its number, and among the wounded was the officer by whom it was commanded. The enemy's fire increased and a retrograde movement was deemed advisable; but the wounded were first collected under the shelter of a wall, whence they were afterwards removed into the church of St. Domingo, which now became the object of attack. It was above half an hour before an entrance could be forced. This was at length effected by discharging a field-piece against the doors. The colours of the 71st regiment, which were found decorating the interior of the edifice, were in-

stantly taken down, and the rifle corps with others of the column having forced their way to the parapets, displayed them there. The Spaniards who were on the top of the building, retired to the summit of the dome, drawing after them the only ladder by which they could be followed. It was just before this that General Craufurd was joined by Lieutenant-colonel Guard with the grenadier company of the 45th regiment. The convent and church of St. Domingo were situated very near to the main position of the enemy, who, aware of the importance of the post advanced several strong corps against it. About twelve o'clock a Spanish officer with a flag of truce approached the convent. The British General erroneously imagined that Liniers was disposed to capitulate, but he was soon undeceived on finding that the Spaniard was the bearer of a summons to surrender, and was also charged to in-

form him of the failure of the attack in other quarters. This summons General Craufurd peremptorily rejected, and determined to take the first occasion of extricating himself from a situation where he had reason to think it not advisable to remain. He conceived that the best opportunity would be, when the enemy should approach in considerable numbers in the streets, as his men, when mixed with them, would probably be less exposed to the destructive fire from the surrounding houses, which were constantly receiving fresh supplies of men and ammunition. A numerous column soon advanced on the west side of the convent, apparently with the intention of taking a three-pounder which was in the street, and which, from the narrowness of the entrance could not be brought in. General Craufurd immediately ordered all the men of the rifle corps to come down from the different situ-

ations in which they were placed on the upper parts of the building, and prepared to evacuate the post. Meanwhile, the Spaniards being on the point of seizing the gun, were attacked with the greatest intrepidity by Colonel Guard at the head of his grenadiers and Major Trotter, with a small party of light infantry. The enemy in the street gave way, but the fire from the houses contiguous to the convent was so destructive, that in two or three minutes about forty men of the 45th who led the attack were killed or wounded. Among the former was Major Trotter, a brave and accomplished soldier. He was pierced with several balls, and his loss damped the spirits of the party in no slight degree. Seeing that it was impossible to effect his retreat, General Craufurd ordered the remainder of the detachment to return to the convent, which he continued to defend till near four o'clock. The

firing had by this time ceased all round, and the General having waited eight hours without receiving either succour or orders, concluded of course that the attack had generally failed. He therefore called together the field officers of his wing, and after mature deliberation, they concurred in the expediency of a surrender.

Lieutenant-colonel Pack moved forward with the left wing of the light brigade, amounting to six hundred rank and file. He directed Lieutenant-colonel Cadogan to lead the rear half-up, and to advance in a parallel street with himself. Scarcely had he approached the Franciscan church, when he lost, by the fire of an invisible and completely unassailable enemy, almost the whole of the men composing the first division, nearly half of the next company, and a proportionate number of the others. Finding it impossible

to penetrate to the great square and castle, the intended object of attack, or to gain an advantageous position in the neighbourhood, Colonel Pack thought it right to desist, and inquire the success of Colonel Cadogan's division. He learned that the latter had been equally unfortunate, and had even lost the gun by which it had been accompanied, every man and horse at it having been killed or wounded. Colonel Pack now went to reconnoitre the buildings forming the bottom of the square in which the Jesuit's college is situated, but though well acquainted with them, he could find no entrance. On returning to Colonel Cadogan he intimated his intention of proceeding to the Residentia, but the latter deprecated the idea of giving up the ground they had gained with so much loss. Some of the men had by this time taken possession of some buildings to the left of St. Domingo; and General

Craufurd's column appearing at the head of a narrow street leading to the back of that convent, Colonel Pack went to consult with him about further operations, but the enemy having cut off the communication between the two wings, he found it impossible to rejoin his division, and was obliged to share the fate of General Craufurd. After the departure of Colonel Pack, Colonel Cadogan, who remained in command of the left wing, continued to defend the post of which he had taken possession, for three hours, with the loss of more than an hundred killed and wounded. An officer from the enemy then appeared with a flag of truce. The firing from the top of Colonel Cadogan's post was, consequently ordered to cease, and the Spaniards availing themselves of this circumstance, poured upon it in such overwhelming numbers as to render any further resistance unavailing. He ac-

cordingly surrendered with the concurrence of the rest of the officers.

The right wing of the 28th was commanded by Lieutenant-colonel Duff, who was ordered by Brigadier-general Lumley to proceed as far as he could without too great a sacrifice, and to endeavour to take possession of a church on his right. In getting under arms, he considered his force so weak, that fearful lest he should be unable to accomplish this object, he sent to head-quarters, requesting that two out of the three companies which were there might be sent to strengthen him. To his utter astonishment those two companies joined him without flints, which General Gower had directed to be taken out. Colonel Duff immediately ordered them to procure flints from the other companies, but the whole of them could not be supplied. So strongly was the Colonel

prepossessed with an idea of the failure of the attack, that he left the colours of the regiment at head-quarters lest they should be taken. In compliance with the orders he had received, Colonel Duff divided his battalion into two wings, each consisting of about 225 rank and file. The left advanced under the direction of Major Vandeleur, and the right was led by Colonel Duff, towards the church above mentiontioned. He met with no opposition till he was within fifty yards of the building, when the enemy commenced a most tremendous fire of musketry from the opposite houses. The column pushed on, and gained the church; in the front of it was a court, the gate of which being open, the troops entered; but the doors of the church resisted every effort to break them. During this time about thirty men had fallen by the destructive fire from the neighbouring houses, which obliged Co-

lonel Duff to evacuate this post. He now pushed on through a heavy discharge of musketry till he was within one hundred paces of the south-west angle of the Great Square, when it became impracticable to penetrate further. Finding that he had lost about one third of his little column in killed and wounded, and among the former, the major, the adjutant, and assistant-surgeon, Colonel Duff defiled to the left with his remaining force, which broke open and entered three houses, that had not been occupied by the enemy, but which were commanded by them from those adjoining. On the tops of these houses he formed his men, but they were assailed by showers of musket balls from a numerous enemy, who kept continually increasing. The men falling fast, seeing no hope of receiving support, and being surrounded on all sides by three or four

hundred armed men, Colonel Duff, about noon thought it prudent to surrender.

The left wing of the 88th regiment, we have seen, was led on by Major Vandeleur. It advanced down the street of St. Pedro, being the second to the west of the castle, and as its commander had been particularly enjoined to reach the river, he proceeded rapidly through the town to accomplish this object. He experienced no opposition till he had advanced about half way down the street; the utmost silence prevailed, the very dogs being tied up in the courts. Here the men received some shots from the cross streets, and on reaching the third crossing from the river, were flanked by some cannon placed between them and the Great Square. A brisk fire was now opened from the tops of the houses, whence the troops were also an-

noyed by grenades and earthen pots, filled with a composition by which several of them were burned; but as the river was now opening to their view, they paid little attention to these assailants. Two pieces of cannon were also discharged at the head of the column from the bottom of the street, after which the Spaniards withdrew them towards the Great Square. Before they attained the last square of buildings which terminates the turn on this side, the men were exposed to heavy showers of grape and landgridge on their right flank. They had fallen fast at the angles, and one officer had already become a victim to a kind of firing which it was not in their power to resist. In crossing the last street, they met with an obstacle which it required their utmost exertions to surmount. This was a breast-work composed of bullocks' hides made into sacks, and filled with the earth from a ditch in

front of it, about six feet deep and twelve wide. As the troops gained this intrenchment in the reverse, they soon scrambled over, and sprung into the ditch, out of which they were obliged to assist each other. While thus situated, a tremendous fire was kept up from the houses on both sides, and numbers fell at this spot. The joy of the troops on gaining the point to which they had been ordered was great; but their disappointment may be conceived when they found that the street had no outlet at this end, but terminated in a descent to a wall, and a small slope leading down to the flat of the river, and enfiladed by the castle which now opened upon them at the distance of two hundred yards. In this unexpected situation, Major Vandeleur thought proper to occupy a temporary lodgment, in the hope of being supported by, or communicating with the columns on the flanks. With

difficulty the men, with the butt ends of their muskets, forced the entrance of an enclosure about ten yards square, with one face open to the river, the others having a low range of buildings with a sloping roof, crowned at the crest with a parapet, behind which the enemy in considerable numbers lay concealed. Major Vandeleur left some men to guard the entrance, but the Spaniards soon cleared the gate way by their enfilading shots from the back of the low buildings under which the English were sheltered. The latter found it impossible to get at their opponents, or to ascend the roofs, those who escaped from the gateway, after violent efforts entered an unoccupied house, from the summit of which they expected to silence or answer the fire of the Spaniards. Against this house the latter brought a field piece to bear, from the angle near the breast-work, in the ditch of which

Captain Chisholm had remained with his section to protect the rear of the column against insults from that quarter. The sound of this field piece alone announced its approach; and forming a banquette with the dead bodies that covered the bottom of the ditch, he succeeded in directing his fire against the gun, which the Spaniards abandoned. They, however, returned and fired a second shot, but were again repulsed by Captain Chisholm; who, being severely galled by the fire from the houses, found it necessary to shelter his men at the foot of the scarp of the work. The situation of the column was now truly alarming. No communication could be maintained between its detached parties, as the fate of numbers shewed it to be certain death to quit their cover. To retreat was impracticable, and all hopes of support vanished, as the sound of firing receded instead of

approached. In this state the troops remained for two hours, when the enemy began to attempt to pierce through the walls and roofs. Half the division lay either dead or wounded, and a shell or a few grenades would have decided the fate of the remainder. These Major Vandeleur did not think himself authorized to sacrifice to no purpose. He therefore consulted his officers, who agreed to enter into a parley with the enemy. A white hankerchief was hoisted as a flag of truce, and the Spaniards received this column as prisoners of war.

This regiment having been directed against the Great Square, where the defending force was concentrated, its loss was necessarily proportioned to the opposition which it experienced. Four officers were killed and twelve wounded; and out of 454 rank and file led into the

town, nearly 100 were killed and 120 wounded.

The right wing of the 36th, consisting of six companies, led by Lieutenant-colonel Burne, under the directions of Brigadier-general Lumley, moved down the streets of St. Nicholas. A partial firing of musketry was soon opened upon them in various directions; but they nevertheless penetrated to the last cross street contiguous to the river. The tools which had been delivered to the columns were found useless for breaking open the massy doors and windows; but at length, by the united efforts of the soldiers, some houses were forced, and upon one of them General Lumley directed the colours of the 36th regiment to be planted, as a signal and encouragement to the other columns of the brigade. The cross street in the rear of his position was now enfiladed by

two guns from one entrance of the Great Square ; the street next to the breach was, in like manner, enfiladed by two guns from that part of the square immediately under the castle, as also by three guns from the castle itself. Their fire was directed with great precision and effect against the large house on which the colours were flying. A constant and heavy fire of musketry was likewise poured upon the column in every direction from assailants who were completely concealed by the parapets of the houses. In this situation General Lumley had been for some time, when he was joined by six men of the 88th, who informed him that almost the whole of their regiment were prisoners, which intelligence was soon confirmed by the Spanish colonel Elio, who came with a flag of truce, and proposed to the General to surrender. This he peremptorily refused. All opposition on the part of

the 88th regiment having ceased, the fire of the enemy in that quarter was now wholly directed against the 36th. An attempt was made by the Spaniards to bring two guns into the very street down which the column had marched, and at the end of which General Lumley then was. These, though at some distance, would have completely enfiladed his position in the rear, in the same manner that two guns, which advanced along the beach, were intended to do in front. About this period the General had ordered up the left wing of the 36th regiment, under Captain Cross, to his support, and nearly at the same time Major King appeared with the left wing of the 5th in his rear, at the very point where the enemy had assembled in great numbers, and were conducting the two first mentioned guns, which they abandoned as he advanced. Although the necessity of self-

defence had obliged the General to allow his men to commence firing long before this period, yet the contest was very unequal from the first, opposed as he was by a numerous artillery and musketry in every direction. The Spanish officers again came to propose a surrender: but as their manner was rude and uncourteous, the General recommended them to retire without delay. Colonel Elio soon afterwards appeared a second time, with authority from Liniers to require an unconditional surrender within a quarter of an hour; but General Lumley was again equally peremptory in his refusal. During these conferences with the Spanish officers, numbers of the enemy, either intoxicated with liquor or their success, or perhaps both, had rushed forward under the idea of taking prisoners and disarming their opponents; a temerity for which many of them paid with their lives.

The guns on the beach had likewise been considerably advanced, and were covered by about 300 Spaniards. Sensible of the serious annoyance which these guns were likely to give to the column in any subsequent operations, the gallant Lieutenant-colonel Burne, with General Lumley's permission, put himself at the head of a detachment of about 50 men, charged the enemy; and, notwithstanding their great superiority in numbers, drove them under the walls of the castle, and spiked the guns. He then sought shelter under a low house and garden hedge from the heavy fire which was opened upon him from the fort. About this time the General received information, that Sir Samuel Auchmuty was in possession of the Plaza de los Toros, and that he recommended to General Lumley to retire along the beach, and to join him on the heights of Retiro. Having been engaged

above six hours in a most unequal contest, in which he had lost a considerable number of officers and men; having expended all his ammunition; being forbidden by his instructions to advance against the Castle and Great Square, and sensible that before long he must be completely surrounded and overpowered by numbers, the General thought it advisable to fall back and reinforce Sir Samuel Auchmuty with the remains of the 5th and 36th regiments. He accordingly retired along the beach, still exposed to a heavy fire from the castle, and with some additional loss joined Sir Samuel's division in the Plaza de los Toros, whither he was followed by Colonel Burne with his little detachment.

The right wing of the 5th regiment, forming part of the brigade under Sir Samuel Auchmuty, penetrated without

opposition to the river. Lieutenant-colonel Davie, who commanded it, immediately posted a part of the column on the tops of the houses in the square nearest the river, and placed troops at the different angles of the streets intersecting each other. Soon afterwards, in conjunction with two companies of the left wing, he took possession of the church of Santa Catalina, which position he maintained for several hours, till he received directions from General Lumley to advance to his support. He accordingly left the church and joined the General, whom he accompanied to the Retiro.

Major King led on the left wing of the 5th, which likewise reached the river without opposition. In its way the enemy had abandoned to it four pieces of cannon, with which they appeared to be retreating from the left, having previ-

ously spiked the guns, and shot the horses that drew them. The column having gained the river, began to be annoyed by the enemy's fire. A house was soon broken open, and the regimental colours of the 5th were displayed upon it. Major King then detached parties to take possession of several adjacent houses and a church. By this time a very galling fire commenced from the Plaza de los Toros, which commanded his post, but between nine and ten it ceased, and the British colours were seen flying upon the Plaza. About noon a French colour was discovered in a house to the right which the men expressed a strong desire to take. The Major, leaving a small party to protect the wounded and guard the prisoners, many of whom had been brought in by his detached parties, advanced towards this house, but received so heavy a fire, that he thought it necessary to

break open one on the left, into the court-yard of which, he directed his wounded men to be brought. Two attempts were made to gain the object of attack, but the Major found the offensive and defensive means of the enemy so superior to his own that he was obliged to retire. Aware of the impossibility of maintaining his position, he sent off the wounded and retired to a street where he found a detachment of the 36th. A body of the enemy was now seen advancing from the upper end of the street, headed by an officer with a white handkerchief, denoting that he had surrendered himself and party as prisoners of war. He gave up his sword, but his men refusing to lay down their arms, and proceeding to acts of violence, Major King ordered his troops to charge, on which the Spaniards fled, leaving a few killed behind them. Soon after this the Major received directions from General

Lumley to form a junction with the right wing of the 5th, and to retire to the Plaza de los Toros, which he immediately obeyed.

It has already been observed, that the 87th regiment was to penetrate through the town by the two streets on the right of El Retiro, but by some mistake in the sketch of the town, marking the routes of the different columns, they were conducted through those leading directly to the Plaza de los Toros. The right wing, headed by Brigadier-general Sir Samuel Auchmuty and Lieutenant-colonel Sir Edward Butler, advanced a considerable distance without opposition, when it became exposed to the heavy discharge of guns which enfiladed it, and which levelled the leading sections with the ground. The column, however, still pushed on, when a very heavy fire of mus-

ketry opened upon it from the Retiro, which contained about 1000 men. The column was for some time exposed to this fire; the rear, eager to advance, likewise commenced firing, which rendered the situation of those in front still more dangerous. At length it began to waver and fall back. At this moment Colonel Butler and other officers, all of whom behaved with the utmost gallantry, used every exertion to stop the men, and to induce them to follow Sir Samuel Auchmuty, who was attempting to force the hedges on the right. In this they succeeded, and the column, inclining in the same direction, penetrated into the next parallel street which led to the river. In advancing, the men were fortunately sheltered from the fire of the Retiro, which was still very heavy, by a deep watercourse running through the middle of the street. On reaching the river the

General took possession of a large house, and collected the remains of his own column, and also of the left column of the regiment which had likewise been led to the front of the Plaza de los Toros, and after suffering equally, if not more severely than the right, had been obliged to pursue the same course and to join the latter. During this service, the regiment killed great numbers of the enemy, and took about one hundred prisoners with three field pieces. General Auchmuty, now seeing the colours of the 5th regiment on the convent of St. Catalina, and knowing that he was secure on the right, sent detached parties to his rear to clear the houses on the heights which looked down upon his post and from which the enemy were firing. Meanwhile a firing on the left announced the approach of the 38th, and soon afterwards the heights in the rear were evacuated by the enemy.

While the 87th regiment was thus engaged, the 38th had moved down to the left of El Retiro, and inclining to the right, arrived at the north-west angle of Plaza de los Toros, where the enemy's artillery opened upon them. The effects of its fire were so destructive that Colonel Nugent relinquished the attempt to advance in that direction; but a detachment in the rear was sent to take possession of a large house situated on the edge of the cliff, looking to the river, and occupied by the enemy, in order to silence their guns, and turn their right flank. These men, having first occupied the house, sallied out by a back door, and possessed themselves of the fort and barracks of the Retiro. The artillery which opposed the advance of the regiment, being thus taken in flank, the Spaniards abandoned their guns; the men who worked them fled into the neighbouring houses where they fell

victims to the fury of the English. The enemy had spiked all their guns but one twelve pounder, that was immediately turned on the Retiro, which contained a large body of their best troops, who kept up a smart fire of musketry through the arched openings. From these they were, nevertheless, soon driven, and the 87th, who had reconnoitred the operations of the 38th, immediately joined them in the attack of the Retiro, and which now became so warm that the Spaniards, dreading the fate of their companions who were bayoneted in the neighbouring houses, immediately displayed a white handkerchief, and surrendered at discretion. During the cannonade a great number had escaped from the building into the town: four hundred were made prisoners; thirty-two pieces of artillery were taken, and a great quantity of military stores was found in the arsenal. The total number

of prisoners taken by General Auchmuty's brigade amounted to 700. The loss of the 87th regiment on this occasion was considerable, both in officers and men, as they had been exposed to heavy and close discharges of pieces of large calibre, loaded with langridge and grape.

About noon the firing had nearly ceased in all quarters. The British troops remained in possession of the two posts against which their efforts should have been alone directed at this period, that is, the Retiro and Residentia, which were both gained with a trifling loss compared with that sustained in other respects.—Above seventy officers and one thousand men were killed or badly wounded; and one hundred and twenty officers and fifteen hundred rank and file were taken prisoners. Nearly the whole of this loss was incurred at those points where there was

no possibility of success in the unconnected and unsupported manner in which the attacks were made. The whole number of Spanish prisoners in the hands of the English was about one thousand. The British officers taken with the different divisions were marched as they surrendered, to the castle, where they experienced a polite reception from General Liniers and Balbiani. The rabble, however, were less courteous; several of them even levelled their fire arms at the English, and it required the exertions of the Spanish gentlemen, by whom they were escorted, to protect them from insult. The privates were distributed into various prisons.

For some days the fleet had been lying opposite to Buenos Ayres, but was entirely ignorant of the operations on shore. The larger ships could not approach nearer

than five or six miles. The firing, on the morning of the 5th, announced the attack on the town, and on observing the British colours flying on the Retiro, the small armed vessels stood close in, and opened a communication, bringing on shore refreshments for the troops.

Generals Whitelocke and Gower remained during the whole of the 5th, with the reserve in the same position at the Coral de Miserere, which they had occupied the preceding day. Colonel Mahon, with his division of the army, was still at Reduction on the morning of the 5th, when he received an order from the Commander in Chief to advance; and it was not till the evening of the 6th that he arrived at head quarters

Here General Whitelocke remained during the whole of the attack without at-

tempting to open any communication with the columns engaged in it. Some officers were sent to procure information respecting their operations. Captain Whittingham, who was dispatched to the Plaza de los Toros, made him acquainted with the success of Sir Samuel Auchmuty's division, but of the fate of the columns on the right he was totally ignorant till the next day.

On the morning of the 6th, a letter addressed by General Liniers to the commander of the forces, was received at Sir Samuel Auchmuty's out-posts, with a message to this effect, that he should abstain from hostilities till noon, waiting for the General's answer, provided the English would do the same. General Auchmuty replied that he should send the letter to the Commander in Chief, and should abstain from firing upon the town, if he remained un-

molested, but that he had no authority over the other posts of the army. The letter he accordingly forwarded to General Whitelocke. It was as follows:

SIR,

The same sentiments of humanity which induced your Excellency to propose to me to capitulate, lead me now, that I am fully acquainted with your force, that I have taken 80 officers and upwards of 1000 men, and killed more than double that number, without your having reached the centre of my position; the same sentiments, I say, lead me, in order to avoid a further effusion of blood, and to give your Excellency a fresh proof of Spanish generosity, to offer to your Excellency, that, if you choose to re-embark with the remainder of your army, to evacuate Monte Video and the whole of the river Plata, leaving me hostages for the execution of the treaty,

I will not only return all the prisoners which I have now made, but also all those which were taken from General Beresford. At the same time, I think it necessary to state, that if your Excellency does not accept this offer, I cannot answer for the safety of the prisoners, as my troops are so infinitely exasperated against them; and the more so as three of my aids-de-camp have been wounded bearing flags of truce; and for this reason I send your Excellency this letter by an English officer, and shall wait for your answer one hour.

Buenos Ayres, 5th July, 1807.

(At five o'clock in the evening.)

On the receipt of this letter General Whitelocke, leaving Lieutenant-colonel Bradford in the command of the column, proceeded with Major-general Gower and all the other staff officers to the Plaza de

los Toros, where he consulted Sir Samuel Auchmuty on the propriety of accepting the terms proposed by the Spanish General. On considering all the circumstances of the case, Sir Samuel gave it as his opinion that those terms ought to be acceded to, if no better could be obtained. The following answer was accordingly returned:

Head-quarters, 6th July, 1807.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter. You do me no more than justice in believing that whatever advances the cause of humanity would be grateful to me; and therefore as, from the extent of the action of yesterday, the wounded on both sides are dispersed over a considerable space of ground, I would propose that there should be a truce for four and twenty hours, that each might

collect those dispersed on the lines of approach of the different columns.

The ground on which the armies now stand to be the line of demarcation, and each to bring the wounded of the other to deliver them to the respective outposts.

As to the idea of surrendering the advantages which this army has gained, it is quite inadmissible, having also taken many prisoners, captured a quantity of artillery with all its stores, and gained both its flanks. I leave to your candour the relative situation of the two armies.

I have to lament the circumstance of your aids-de-camp having been wounded: I cannot account for it otherwise than by attributing it to those mistakes which often occur at the commencement of hosti-

lities. I shall take care that nothing of the kind shall happen for the future, but I have to remark that my aid-de-camp was fired at, the whole of the way of his approach to your lines on the 4th instant, when I sent him with a flag of truce.

J. WHITELOCKE.

General Liniers, &c. &c. &c.

This letter was transmitted to the Spanish commander by Captain Brown, General Whitelocke's aid-de-camp.

It would appear that, previous to this correspondence, further operations against the town had been planned by the naval and military commanders, as orders were given to land battering cannon, and on the morning of the 6th, the gun brigs took up a position under the pier for bombarding the castle and neighbourhood. About

noon the gun-boats opened against the castle, from which some heavy pieces were directed upon them. The cannonading continued without doing much damage on either side, three or four shots only having struck the castle, one of which fell in the General's room. The communication between the two Generals put a stop to this bombardment, which seemed to cause no little consternation among the Spaniards. Indeed, had it been continued, and had General Whitelocke, following the suggestions of the officers of artillery and engineers, erected batteries, for which there was every facility, the fate of the town would soon have been decided. Captain Fraser of the artillery, immediately on arriving at the Plaza de los Toros, with General Whitelocke, went down to reconnoitre towards the banks of the river. While thus employed, the General required his attendance at the Retiro, and in-

quired what power he possessed of erecting batteries against the city? Having examined the arsenal, Captain Fraser returned for answer, that there was abundance of ammunition and stores, and he would pledge himself that by the next morning between twenty and thirty pieces of cannon should play upon the town. It has been pretended that this measure was not adopted, and that the bombardment of the town was countermanded in consequence of a threat on the part of the enemy, that the lives of the English prisoners should answer for the consequences. We are assured, however, by one of the English officers who was then confined in the castle, and who was in constant conversation with the Spanish aid-de-camp, and other persons of high rank, that not a hint of this nature was ever dropped before them; but that their personal safety was pledged to them on the

strongest assurances, whatever might be the result of any further hostilities.

Humanity, it would appear, was merely a cloak employed by General Whitelocke to disguise the most palpable imbecility. Instead of availing himself of any of the means which he still possessed, he dispatched Major-general Gower, in the afternoon of the 6th, to General Liniers with the following letter;

Plaza de los Toros, July 6, 1807.

SIR,

I have the honour to state to you, that, when I received your letter I was just setting off for this place; and presume by the re-commencement of your fire of artillery, that you are not disposed to agree to the cessation of arms which I proposed.

Feeling so sensibly as I do for the suf-

ferings of the unfortunate men who, having been wounded, may want relief, I propose to you that all firing shall cease, while I send an officer to you of rank, Major-general Levison Gower, who will explain the terms on which I propose to meet the views expressed in your letter.

JOHN WHITELOCKE.

About three o'clock General Gower arrived at the castle, and conformably with the instructions he had received from the Commander in Chief, opened a negotiation with General Liniers. A cessation of hostilities till the next day at noon was agreed upon, and the interval was employed in arranging a definitive treaty, the conditions of which were the following:

I. There shall be from this time a cessation of hostilities on both sides of the river Plata.

II. The troops of his Britannic Majesty shall retain for the period of two months the fortress and place of Monte Video, and as a neutral country, there shall be considered a line drawn from San Carlos on the west, to Pando on the east; and there shall not be, on any part of that line, hostilities committed on any side, the neutrality being understood only that the individuals of both nations may live freely under their respective laws, the Spanish subjects being judged by theirs, and the English by those of their nation.

III. There shall be on both sides a mutual restitution of prisoners, including not only those which have been taken since the arrival of the troops under Lieutenant-general Whitelocke, but also all those of his Britannic Majesty's subjects captured in South America since the commencement of the war.

IV. That for the promptest dispatch of the vessels and troops of his Britannic Majesty, there shall be no impediment thrown in the way of the supplies of provisions which may be requested for Monte Video.

V. A period of ten days from this time is given for the re-embarkation of his Britannic Majesty's troops, to pass to the north side of the river La Plata, with the arms which may actually be in their power, stores and equipage, at the most convenient points which may be selected, and during this time provisions may be sold to them.

VI. That at the time of the delivery of the place and fortress of Monte Video, which shall take place at the end of the two months fixed in the second article, the delivery will be made in the terms it

was found, and with the artillery it had when it was taken.

VII. Three officers of rank shall be delivered for, and until the fulfilment of the above articles by both parties, it being well understood that his Britannic Majesty's officers, who have been on their parole, cannot serve against South America until their arrival in Europe.

Done at the Fort of Buenos Ayres, the 7th day of July, 1807, signing two of one tenor.

JOHN WHITELOCKE,
Lieut. Gen. Commanding.
GEORGE MURRAY,
Rear Adm. Commanding.
SANTIAGO LINIERS.
CESAR BALBIANI.
BERNARDO VELASCOS.

The British commander had demanded four months for the evacuation of South America, but Liniers absolutely refused a longer term than two. He likewise endeavoured to open the port of Buenos Ayres, for the English merchants at Monte Video during the period allowed for the evacuation, but this was strongly resisted, as being contrary to the laws of Spain for the government of her American colonies.

In fulfilment of the terms of the treaty, the English officers were, on the 8th, escorted from the castle to the Retiro. On their way they beheld the melancholy spectacle presented by a heap of their brave followers, who had fallen in the streets of St. Pedro, stripped perfectly naked, and thrown together on the beach. The Spanish officers returned with all their countrymen in the hands of the

English; and next day the whole exchange was effected, with the exception of such of the wounded as could not be moved with safety.

The embarkation of the troops now immediately commenced. The smaller vessels conveyed them out to the transports, which could not approach within four or five miles of the shore; and many of the wounded were taken in at the pier. This business occupied several days, in which interval, owing to the temptations held out to the men, many desertions took place; but Liniers being informed of the circumstance, gave up as many of the fugitives as could be secured. At noon, on the 13th, the fleet got under way, and in the evening of the following day arrived at Monte Video.

On the 10th of July, the Saracen sloop

of war sailed for England with dispatches, and having on board Brigadier-generals Sir Samuel Auchmuty and Craufurd. Preparations were made for the departure of those troops who could not take an active part in the war before their return to England. These were, the light brigade and the 88th regiment. The 47th and 87th, having been completed with draughts from the different corps, sailed on the 1st of August, for the Cape of Good Hope, thence to be conveyed to India.

It was the 24th of July before the detachments under Brigadier-general Auckland, intended to act under General Whitelocke, arrived, after a passage of twenty weeks, at Monte Video. They had experienced much severe weather, and had only one week's provision remaining.

The British hostages for the fulfilment

of the treaty had been left at Buenos Ayres before the re-embarkation; and those given by the Spaniards reached Monte Video on the 31st of July, attended by a very numerous suite.

On the 8th of August, the transports, seventeen in number, having on board the 9th and 20th light dragoons, the rifle corps, and 88th regiment got under way, and stood up the river to take in fresh water for the homeward bound voyage. This business being accomplished, the fleet again sailed under convoy of the Unicorn and Thisbe frigates, and at the beginning of November arrived in England. The remainder of the transports and merchantmen left Monte Video on the 9th of September, on which day the evacuation was carried into effect, having been prevented on the 7th and 8th by the unfavourable weather. The Medusa fri-

gate, which convoyed them down the river Plata, brought home Lieutenant-general Whitelocke and staff, who arrived on the 7th of November at Spithead.

Thus terminated an expedition from which so much had been expected by the British nation, whose government had spared no expence in appointing and transporting an army calculated to ensure success. This disappointment (to use the emphatic lauguage of a high public character), has been cruelly embittered by the disgrace which such a failure, under all its circumstances, has attached to the British arms. The diminution of our military fame must be felt at all times as a great national calamity, but at no period so severely as in this crisis of the world, when our military character has become more essential than ever, not merely for our honour or our glory, but for the in-

dependence, the liberties, and the existence of Great Britain. It is, however, a great consolation that whatever may be the stain which our military renown has received, the conduct of the troops has had no share in producing it. The more the attack of the 5th of July is examined, the more clearly it will be found that no troops ever showed more courage; that no officers, with one exception, ever displayed more zeal, more conduct, more devotion of themselves to the common cause in the course of the most triumphant engagement than was displayed by the British officers through the whole of that destructive day.

The result of the recent and minute investigation of the conduct of the officer to whom the chief command of the British army in South America was entrusted, is too fresh in the recollection of every

reader to require any recapitulation here. Suffice it, therefore, to observe, that it has proved in the most decisive manner to what cause the disastrous termination of the contest in that quarter, ought to be attributed; and shewn how easy the imbecility of a commander destitute of skill to form judicious arrangements, and of energy and zeal to carry them into strict execution, may counteract all the effect of the utmost enthusiasm and intrepidity in his inferiors.

APPENDIX

OF

BIOGRAPHICAL ANECDOTES.

SIR HOME POPHAM.

Sir Home Popham was born in 1762, at Tetuan on the coast of Morocco, at which port his father was consul. His mother died in childbirth of him. Her death was occasioned by the circumstance of Admiral Gell's firing a salute, at a period when the enemy was expected. She had a very numerous progeny, he being the twenty-first child, but out of this number only Sir Home and his eldest brother, General Popham, are now living.

He was indebted for his education to Mr. Stephen Popham, of Madras, who was eminent for his talents in the law. When very young, he was sent to Westminster school, and on account of the extraordinary progress he had made in his studies, was admitted at the early age of thirteen years into the university of Cambridge. He had previously made one or two short trips to sea; but did not finally embrace the naval service till he had been twelve months at the university.

Mr. Popham commenced his career as a seaman under the auspices of the late Commodore Thompson, who acted the part of father, of in-

structor, and of protector to his boyish years. It is believed, that he was first employed under that officer on the home station; that at the defeat of the Spanish squadron commanded by Langara, in June 1778, he was in the Hyæna, a repeating frigate, and that he continued in the same ship till she was paid off at the beginning of 1782.

Towards the close of the American war, Mr. Popham attained the rank of lieutenant, but the peace which ensued left him without fortune and without employment. Under these circumstances his attention was directed towards the East Indies, where his eldest brother had already distinguished himself. He accordingly repaired thither, and visited most parts of India. His talents for marine surveying, in which he is not excelled by any officer in the British service, procured his appointment, at the special recommendation of Lord Cornwallis, as one of a committee in 1788, to survey New Harbour in the river Hoogly, which had been represented as a proper place for a dock-yard.

In 1791, Lieutenant Popham commanded a country ship in India, and being bound from Bengal to Bombay, during a very tempestuous monsoon, he was obliged to bear up for the Straits of Malacca, and anchor at Pulo Penang, now called Prince of Wales's Island. This event led to the discovery of the southern passage, or outlet, which had not before been explored, a discovery which obtained him a letter of thanks from the government.

The letter of thanks was not the only compensation which Lieutenant Popham received for this service. A piece of plate was presented him in the name of the Governor-general in council;

and the court of directors, on receiving the intelligence, recommended him, in very strong terms, to the board of Admiralty.

Lieutenant Popham's survey of the south channel afforded him employment for some time. The company's ships which passed through it, were enabled to save considerable time, and three of their commanders, Captains Lawrie, Reid, and M'Intosh, in a letter dated from Canton, November 13, 1792, signified their wish to present him with a piece of plate in their own names, and those of others sailing from Bombay. Beacons were first placed along it for the direction of mariners, and these were afterwards replaced by buoys.

After acting for some years as a free trader in the east, Lieutenant Popham was appointed to the command of the Etrusco, an Imperial East Indiaman. This vessel, on her return from Bengal to Ostend, was seized, and made prize of by an English frigate, a considerable part of the property on board being supposed to belong to British subjects. On this occasion her commander was a considerable loser, but it was probably to this apparently untoward circumstance that he was indebted for his subsequent advancement and success in the service of his country.

The war with France was now commencing, and in the early part of it Lieutenant Popham was attached, with a party of seamen under his orders, to the army commanded by the Duke of York in Flanders and Holland. The first service in which he was employed was, to assist in the defence of Nieuport against the French. At this time, about the month of November, 1793, he conceived the idea of arming the fishermen

of Flanders in defence of their own towns; and the plan being approved by the Duke of York, he formed a regular corps, which was placed under his command; and to their utility many distinguished officers bore the amplest testimony.

In November, 1794, General Pichegru having taken Crevecœur, Venloo, and Maestricht, proceeded with a powerful army to lay siege to Nimeguen. This city was not only defended by a numerous garrison, but the Duke of York was able at any time to throw in supplies from his camp at Arnheim. As it was evident that the place could not be taken till all intercourse with the English troops was cut off, the enemy immediately erected two strong batteries to the right and left of the line of defence; and these were so well served by their artillery, that they at length destroyed one of the boats which supported the bridge of communication. The place must, in consequence, have surrendered immediately, had it not been for the exertions of Lieutenant Popham, who, having repaired thither from Ostend, made good the damage, and thus for a time protracted the fate of the town. It was for this particular service that, on the 7th of April, 1795, Mr. Popham was promoted to the rank of post-captain.

In the course of the last-mentioned year, he acted in the capacity of naval agent for the English army on the continent; and under his immediate inspection the English troops who had been serving there were embarked, and escorted to England by the Dædalus and Amphion frigates.

An invasion of the British islands having been threatened by the French, the attention of Cap-

tain Popham was directed to the means of successfully resisting such an attempt. This gave rise to his plan for raising and organizing the sea fencibles, which, having been approved by government, was carried into effect in the spring of 1798. Agreeably to this plan, the coast of England was divided into districts, over each of which a post-captain was appointed, with a number of commanders and lieutenants. The district from Beachy Head to Deal inclusive, was assigned to Captain Popham, as a reward for his industry and attention; and the whole of his conduct on this station evinced the most laudable activity and exertion.

Government having received intelligence early in 1798, that the enemy had collected a great number of gun-boats and transports at Flushing, with a view to send them to Dunkirk and Ostend by the Bruges canal, formed a plan for destroying the bason gates and sluices. For the execution of this project, Captain Popham was selected on account of his acquaintance with the country, and his well-established reputation for enterprise. The troops were landed, and accomplished the purpose for which they were sent; but owing to the state of the weather, they found it impossible to re-embark, and Captain Popham had the mortification of leaving behind the troops whom he had conveyed, in the hands of the enemy.

A treaty having been concluded in 1799, between Great Britain and Russia, by which the latter engaged to furnish a certain number of ships and men for an expedition against Holland, Captain Popham was sent to Cronstadt, in the Nile lugger, in the capacity of a British com-

missary, to superintend the embarkation of the troops. On this occasion he received a visit on board his little vessel from the Emperor Paul, and the whole of the imperial family, who were highly delighted with the attentions that were paid them, and the amusement of the day. The emperor, among other distinguishing marks of favour, presented him with a gold box set with diamonds, and a picture of the donor, and conferred on him the cross of Malta; an honour which was afterwards confirmed to him by his own sovereign.

Scarcely had Sir Home returned when the expedition to Holland took place. In conjunction with Captain Godfrey, he was entrusted with the command of three gun-boats on the canal of Alkmaar. By the skilful management of these vessels, the flanks of the British army were protected, and the French so much annoyed, that the Duke of York, in his public dispatches, expressed himself highly indebted to Sir Home Popham and Captain Godfrey for their assistance. The numerous services of the former had now become so conspicuous, that some pecuniary reward was deemed requisite, and on the 26th of December, 1799, an annual pension of 500*l.* was settled upon him.

In the course of the year 1800, he was appointed to the command of a small squadron intended to convey a detachment of troops from the Cape of Good Hope, up the Red Sea, for the purpose of co-operating in the projected expedition against the French in Egypt. He accordingly hoisted his pendant on board the Romney of 50 guns, and proceeded with the Sensible of 36, and the Sheerness and Wilhelmina of 44 guns

each, to execute the commission with which he had been entrusted. Having performed this service, he set sail for the East Indies for stores and provisions, but instead of repairing to Bombay, where some of them might have been furnished from the king's stores, he deemed it more eligible to proceed to Calcutta, in order to have an interview with the governor-general in person. In November, 1801, he was preparing to return to the Red Sea, when he was called back by an order from the vice-president in council, in consequence of a dispatch from England, intimating a strong suspicion that the French had sent out an expedition against the Portuguese settlements at Macao, with a view to intercept the ships employed in the China trade. Sir Home immediately suggested the necessity of sending a force for the protection of the settlement, and offered his services to convoy it. Preparations were accordingly made; but having arrived at Prince of Wales Island in December, 1802, he there found Admiral Rainier, who directed the Arrogant and Orpheus to proceed to Macao with the Indiamen; and as his squadron was scantily supplied, part of the Romney's stores and provisions were taken out to enable them to perform that service.

In January, 1803, the commodore again sailed for the Red Sea, and the re-embarkation of the company's troops being effected, he returned to England. Soon after his arrival, he obtained a seat in parliament for Yarmouth, in the Isle of Wight.

About this time an investigation was instituted relative to the expenditure occasioned by the refitting and equipment of the Romney in the

East Indies. This business, after a long, unnecessary, and vexatious delay, was submitted to a committee of the House of Commons, who, so far from finding any thing to criminate Sir Home Popham, declared, "that he appeared from his conduct to have been actuated by no other motive, than that of an ardent zeal for the public service; and that, so far from encouraging and conniving at any waste, he appeared to have effected very considerable savings."

In September, 1804, Sir Home was appointed to the Antelope of 50 guns, and in the absence of Admiral Louis, assumed the command on the Dungeness station. Soon afterwards he was removed to the Diadem of 50 guns; and, on the equipment of an expedition against the Cape of Good Hope, towards the conclusion of 1805, was selected to conduct it. With what ability he executed this commission, and also contributed to the conquest of Buenos Ayres, the plan of which originated, we believe, entirely with himself, has been shewn in a former part of this volume.

His conduct on the latter occasion, however, subjected him to a trial by court-martial for having exceeded the orders with which he was charged. This proceeding, it is true, had more the air of persecution than of a desire to promote the public service, and as such the reprimand which Sir Home received as a recompence for his zeal cannot possibly reflect credit on the ministers of that time.

How little their sentiments on this subject were approved by their successors appears from the circumstance of the latter having given Sir Home the appointment of Captain of the fleet

equipped in the summer of 1807, for the expedition against Copenhagen, a post in which he conducted himself with his usual skill and ability.

MAJOR-GENERAL BERESFORD.

William Carr Beresford is the natural son of the late George de la Poer Beresford, Marquis of Waterford. He was born in Ireland in the year 1766. After receiving a military education, he entered the army as an ensign in the 6th regiment of foot in 1785. In this regiment he continued until the year 1789, when he was promoted to a lieutenancy in the 16th. He received a company in the 69th foot in 1791, and was advanced to a majority in the same regiment early in 1794. With this corps he served in Corsica and at Toulon, where his gallantry and military talents gained him the approbation of his superiors, and excited the emulation of his brother officers. On his return from the Mediterranean he was appointed Lieutenant-colonel Commandant of the Waterford regiment, from which, in the following year, 1795, he was removed to the 88th. With that regiment he went to India in 1798, and accompanied the expedition that was sent thence in 1800, to join the forces in Egypt under Sir Ralph Abercrombie. The conduct of Colonel Beresford, on many occasions in that country, was such as to stamp his fame as a soldier. Of this he received the most honourable testimonies. Shortly after his arrival he had the command of a brigade, and on the surrender of Alexandria he

was appointed commandant of that place. In 1803 he returned to England, when he was appointed Brigadier-general in Ireland. He remained on the staff in that country until the month of August 1805, when the expedition under Sir David Baird sailed for the Cape of Good Hope, Brigadier-general Beresford was made second in command.

The events in which General Beresford bore so conspicuous a share on the Rio de la Plata have already been so minutely detailed, that a repetition would in this place be both needless and improper.

When General Beresford found that the insurrection under Liniers had attained such a height as to render it madness any longer to resist, when he saw that all his efforts to preserve the citadel were fruitless, that his men were dropping fast around him, and that himself and his officers had every thing to apprehend from the brutality of an enraged, lawless, and sanguinary mob, he signed a capitulation on the 12th of August, 1806. The terms expressly granted by the Spanish general in this treaty were, that the British troops should be allowed to march out with the honours of war, and return to England on parole. These terms were, however, shamefully violated by the Spanish government. On the 31st of August General Beresford received a letter, dated the day before, informing him that the capitulation or agreement made between himself and Don Santiago Liniers, commander of the Spanish troops, was not valid, and that the conditions therein granted would not be complied with by the government of Buenos Ayres. The General was also informed by the

same letter, that a determination had been made "to send all the British soldiers to the different "towns in the interior, and that the officers were "to give their parole of honour *for the purpose "of being sent to Europe.*" General Beresford at first, astonished at so flagrant a breach of faith, and indignant that a person should deny what he had deliberately signed, refused to lend his sanction to such a parole. After deliberating, however, a few days, and at the urgent solicitation of his principal officers, who saw that even their lives were in jeopardy, he gave his consent. The parole was accordingly signed, the sole apparent object of which was to get them out of the country. This seemed to be the intention of the Spaniards, and this expectation the English officers had until the 10th of October, at which time General Beresford received the strongest assurances from Liniers, that they were to be speedily embarked for England. On the following day, the 11th, they were however suddenly, and without any previous intimation, sent under an escort to different places in the country. General Beresford, Colonel Pack, some few other officers, were placed at a village called Luxam, about sixteen miles from Buenos Ayres. Here, instead of enjoying that degree of liberty which is always allowed to an officer on parole, the General and his companions were watched with the most jealous vigilance, and never permitted to be out of sight of their guards. Such continued to be the situation of General Beresford until the 5th of February, 1807. At this time intelligence was first received of the conquest of Monte Video. In consequence of that event he was confined a close prisoner to his

room, and a dragoon centinel was placed over him with a drawn sabre. The rest of the officers at Luxam were confined with the same severity, and no one suffered to have any communication with them. All their papers were seized, and the General himself received from Bazo, one of the judges of the Royal Audienza, who had come with a party of dragoons to take care of the prisoners, repeated insults and menaces. This Bazo conducted himself towards the prisoners in the most arbitrary and tyrannical manner. After this period, until the 10th, the officers were prevented by this man's dragoons from crossing their thresholds, and sentinels were planted in all the avenues leading to the village. On the arrival of Bazo at Luxam, General Beresford having heard it rumoured, that a removal of the officers was in contemplation, and that this was the object for which Bazo had come, sent his aid-de-camp to him on the morning of the 6th, politely requesting to know if he had brought any additional orders relative to himself and his companions. The enquiry produced a vast deal of abuse and violence from Bazo, who said to the aid-de-camp—"Tell "your General, that when *he* commanded in "Buenos Ayres we never sent to *him* to ask "his intentions: we shall not tell him what we "intend. We shall act according to our plea-"sure. *He* then commanded, let him now learn "to obey."

On the 10th of February General Beresford, Colonel Pack, and the remainder of the officers were marched under an escort from Luxam. The General understood that he was to be sent 300 leagues in the interior. They proceeded by

short journeys until they arrived at their different places of destination.

In the place to which he was sent General Beresford remained until the latter end of March, when, by the assistance of two Spanish gentlemen, who had been deputed by a party in Buenos Ayres for that purpose, he found means of effecting his escape. These young men were of a very large party in Buenos Ayres who were advocates for independence. They hoped by liberating General Beresford to obtain his assistance in delivering their country from the yoke of Spain. They accordingly contrived to get an interview with him, and laid before him their plan. He accepted their proposal, on condition, however, that Colonel Pack should accompany him. This was also acceded to; and finding an opportunity soon after of eluding their guards, and procuring a suitable disguise, they mounted the horses that were waiting for them, and were soon at a distance from their place of confinement. After encountering a variety of perils, and undergoing the most excessive fatigue, they fortunately arrived in Buenos Ayres without being overtaken. Here seemed to be but the beginning of their dangers. Yet in this city did General Beresford and Colonel Pack remain three days concealed. The two Spaniards had hired a boat, which was to be at the mole by a certain hour on the third night. When the appointed hour arrived, the two officers with their Spanish friends left their place of concealment and walked towards the mole. While on their way thither they were several times accosted by the patrole, who once held them a considerable time in conversation. The Spaniards were

fortunately acquainted with the officers who commanded, and were permitted to pass on without molestation. But what was their consternation, on arriving at the mole, to perceive that, though much past the hour, no boat was waiting for them. To remain there would in a few moments have exposed them to certain discovery, and to go back was equally hazardous. No alternative now remained. They had reason to apprehend an immediate pursuit; as, in all probability, the man with whom they had agreed for a boat had either proved a traitor, or had suspicions of their intention. They had therefore no time for consideration; but being determined at all events to escape, they rushed into the river and directed their course towards a vessel which lay at anchor at some distance from shore. Here they expected to be able to procure a boat either by promises or threats. The river is very shallow at Buenos Ayres, and the vessel being a long way from the mole, General Beresford and his companions waded up to their necks before they reached it. In this disagreeable situation they continued upwards of half an hour. After much difficulty they succeeded in their object, and put off immediately. The alarm was now given on shore. They were fortunate enough before day-break to escape their pursuers. The fugitives continued their course for fifteeen hours, when their strength and patience began to be equally exhausted. The weather was tempestuous, the wind adverse, and they had remained so long in wet clothes that they were chilled and weary, and were beginning to despair of accomplishing their object, and were even on the point of putting back, thinking it

would be impossible to proceed, when fortunately, to their great joy, they descried the sloop of war Charwell, on board of which the General and his friends got at last in safety, and arrived on the day following at Monte Video.

The escape of General Beresford and Colonel Pack produced a letter from Liniers to Sir Samuel Auchmuty and Admiral Stirling, in which he accused the former of having forgotten all sentiments of honour, and of having violated, by their flight, the parole they had given on the 6th of September. The Spanish commander also charged General Beresford with having instigated an insurrection in the country (alluding to the attempts that had been made to establish its independence), and thereby justifying any rigour he might have experienced. In consequence of this, he demanded that General Beresford and Colonel Pack should be delivered up agreeably to the laws of war. A letter also from the Royal Audienza to the same purpose, expressly denied "that any compact or legitimate condition deserving that name had taken place between General Beresford and the commander of the Spanish forces." They pretended to say, that if any capitulation had been signed, it was merely a private agreement and not valid. They asserted, that General Beresford, by his conduct, had put himself on the footing of a state criminal, and that the Spanish government had been for this reason compelled to remove him and the other officers to a distance from the capital.

However absurd, false, and contradictory these accusations were, yet, in order to clear the character of General Beresford and Colonel Pack from such base and unfounded assertions, a

court was summoned for the purpose of investigating the truth of these charges. Of this court, which was composed of the two senior officers of the army and the two senior officers of the navy, the Honourable Brigadier-general Lumley was chosen president. The court, after having maturely considered the circumstances, were unanimously of opinion that there was no breach of parole. It clearly appeared, that the terms granted to General Beresford having been grossly violated, and the object for which he had been induced to give his parole having been subsequently defeated by the Spanish government, he neither could nor ought to be longer considered as bound by a parole. Similar sentiments had been, perhaps from an unnecessary delicacy, communicated by General Beresford after his removal, in a letter to Liniers, from his place of confinement in the country, and which the Spanish commander never attempted to contradict or deny. This seemed, in the opinion of the court, to place the matter beyond dispute, as ignorance could not consequently be pleaded by the Spanish general. The nature of the parole appeared to them also to prove its object, as the words were expressly, "that they should not serve against Spain or its allies until regularly exchanged." If further proof were wanting, a letter from Liniers of the 13th September, 1806, to Huidobeo, the then governor of Monte Video, which was found in that place by the English, was sufficient to give it. This letter transmitted him proposals for hiring a vessel to take the British officers to *England*, stating that there no longer existed any cause for detaining them, as they had given their parole. It was

also obvious, that had the parole been given for any other object, or had its object been local, the conditions or limitations as to time or distance permitted, the officers would have been therein mentioned. No specification of this nature was expressed in the parole, or even at the time even hinted at to General Beresford. It was thought by the court, that the non-compliance of the Spanish commander with the conditions of the parole did therefore virtually liberate the General and Colonel Pack from their part of the obligation. They were also of opinion, that even had the parole been given on the principle of remaining in the country, or had it been any way local, the British officers would, by the conduct of the Spanish government, have been exonerated from any parole whatever; for was it possible that any government, after an officer had given his parole, could have a right to dispose of him at pleasure? or could he still be subject to such parole, if the conditions were violated upon which it was given? If an officer were deprived of all or any part of the benefits he was to have received from giving his parole, could he still be obliged to remain under the obligation of that parole? General Beresford and his officers on the 10th of February were marched into the interior. Of his intended destination, or of any orders respecting him, he was never officially informed. It appearing therefore evident to the court, that General Beresford and the other officers gave their parole for the purpose of being sent to Europe, as stated in the letter of Liniers, dated the 30th of August, and confirmed both by the words of the parole and by another letter from the same com-

mander of the 13th September; it appearing also, that previous to the flight of General Beresford and Colonel Pack, all idea had been abandoned of sending them thither; that they were actually on their route under an armed escort to a place near 300 leagues in the interior; that had the parole been local, it must have been for Buenos Ayres or its vicinity, where it was given, General Beresford and Colonel Pack were consequently released from their obligation when forced from it. It further appearing, that when at Luxam, the General having been made a close prisoner, and having been removed from that place under an escort still further to the interior, the obligation of any parole whatever was therefore done away. The government of Buenos Ayres having either arbitrarily curtailed, or deprived General Beresford altogether of his liberty, and this with circumstances of the grossest insult, it was impossible for any one, in the least degree conversant with the laws of war or of nations, to say that the British officers remained under the obligation of a parole. The instant an officer is made a close prisoner, the obligation, under which he might previously have been for a certain liberty, ceases. The court therefore unanimously agreed, that General Beresford and Colonel Pack were fully and entirely liberated from the obligation of a parole; and Sir Samuel Auchmuty, the commander in chief, in consequence of this decision, put the latter officer immediately on duty. General Liniers having concluded his letter with appealing to the judgment of the military world, General Beresford and Colonel Pack confessed themselves most willing to submit to that tribunal,

General Beresford remained in Monte Video until the middle of April, when he embarked in the Diomede for England.

In consequence of the emigration of the court of Portugal from Europe, it was judged expedient by the English ministry to take possession of the island of Madeira. An expedition was accordingly fitted out, and sailed from Cork the 6th of December last, the command of which was given to General Beresford and Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood. This valuable island was surrendered on the 24th of the same month to his majesty's arms without any opposition. The conditions of the surrender were, that the island should be evacuated and re-delivered to the crown of Portugal, when free egress and ingress to the ports of that kingdom and its colonies should be re-established as heretofore, and when the sovereignty of Portugal should be emancipated from the control and influence of France. Public property should be respected and re-delivered; private property should be sacred, and the free exercise of religion protected; these terms were acceded to without hesitation. The troops immediately landed, and before dark the British troops were encamped and in possession of all the forts.

General Beresford still continues in Madeira, where he had the local rank of Major-general, and to this rank in the army he was also promoted on the 7th of May of the present year.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR SAMUEL AUCHMUTY.

Sir Samuel Auchmuty is the eldest son of the late Rev. Samuel Auchmuty, a respectable

clergyman of New York, in America, where he was born on the 22d of June 1758. He is descended from the family of Auchmuty in Scotland. The Rev. Dr. Auchmuty had three sons, the eldest of whom is the subject of these memoirs, and the younger a merchant in North America. He also had three daughters; the eldest married the late much respected Major-general Frederick Mulcaster, of the Royal Engineers; the second married Mr. Burton, a gentleman of independent fortune; and the third is united to Mr. Tylden, a respectable farmer in Kent.

At the commencement of the American war, by which Dr. Auchmuty lost his high and lucrative ecclesiastical post, Sir Samuel Auchmuty was a student at the college of New York, in which he obtained the degree of Bachelor of Arts. At college he was conspicuous for superior talents, for keenness of penetration, and solidity of judgment. Sir Samuel was destined by his father for the church, but this did not suit the activity of his disposition. His inclination led him to the profession of arms. His attachment to a military life, which began in his earliest years, was founded on a generous passion for glory, and not the effect of that youthful predilection which originates in a fondness for the tinsel exteriors of a laborious profession.

In the year 1776 he joined the royal army under Sir William Howe, and obtained an ensigncy in the 45th regiment, in which he saw much active service, having been present at most of the actions in that and the subsequent campaign.

On the return of his majesty's troops from North America, Sir Samuel Auchmuty exchang-

ed into the 52d regiment, and accompanied that corps to India, where he served during the Mysore war and against the Rohillas. Here, from his professional skill, his spirit and activity, he soon obtained the situation of adjutant, in which he attracted the notice and patronage of the late Marquis Cornwallis, whose penetrating discernment seldom failed to call genius from obscurity, and whose liberal mind never suffered unassuming merit to languish in neglect.

Lord Cornwallis soon discovered in Mr. Auchmuty qualifications adequate to the discharge of a very important post. He consequently appointed him Deputy Judge Advocate General of Madras, prior to the well-known trial of Sir John Burgoyne. This office he filled with much reputation for several years, with a liberal salary of 3,000*l.* per annum; when being desirous of promoting his military prospects, the Marquis sent him to Bombay as Brigade-major to the king's troops. He there joined the staff of General Meadows, on the removal of whom to Madras Colonel Abercrombie succeeded to the government of Bombay, and selected Sir Samuel Auchmuty as his confidential staff officer. In this situation he served until his return to England in 1797. Sir Samuel Auchmuty was many years Adjutant-general in India, and military secretary to the Commander in Chief. His punctuality, the suavity of his manners, his attention to every application and knowledge of individual claims while in these stations, reflected the highest honour on himself, and gained him universal esteem.

In the year 1799 Colonel Auchmuty left England for the Red Sea, on board his Majesty's

ship Romney, Captain Sir Home Popham, and at the Cape of Good Hope assumed the command of a brigade, which he took on with him to Suez. Having joined the Indian army under his friend Sir David Baird, he crossed the desert with it into Egypt, where he became Adjutant-general.

In 1802 he returned to England, and at the commencement of the present war was appointed to the command of the Island of Thanet, where he remained until he was ordered to South America. In the month of October, 1806, Sir Samuel Auchmuty sailed from England with an expedition destined to reinforce General Beresford in Buenos Ayres. On his arrival, however, in the Rio de la Plata, he found that city no longer in possession of the British troops.

The subsequent events have already been minutely related. The conduct of General Auchmuty, in the assault of the important fortress of Monte Video, is universally known, and has received no less applause than so gallant an action deserved. The critical situation in which he was placed made it necessary to adopt those measures, which proved eventually successful. He had not powder remaining sufficient for two days, and a formidable attack on his rear was hourly expected, as an army of 7 or 8,000 Spaniards were approaching to raise the siege. These circumstances convinced the General of the necessity of carrying the town by assault without loss of time. Though he was perfectly sensible that his loss would be extremely severe, and though he felt reluctant at the sacrifice he must unavoidably make, yet he saw that it was necessary by a partial evil to avert that fate which would

in all probability have awaited the whole of his brave troops, had the assault been delayed but another day.

Sir Samuel Auchmuty continued to exercise the chief command in Monte Video until the arrival of General Whitelocke on the 10th of May. During the period of his government, his justice and clemency gained him the affection of all the inhabitants. The grateful sense they entertained of his lenity on the day of victory, and of the mildness of his administration, will be seen in the subjoined address of the Cavildo, presented to Colonel Browne after the departure of Sir Samuel and previous to the evacuation of the place.

At the attack on Buenos Ayres, as has been related in the foregoing pages, Sir Samuel Auchmuty headed the right wing, which advanced against the Plaza de los Toros.

In this enterprise, which was attended with such complete success, he displayed the utmost personal intrepidity and valour. He put himself at the head of his grenadiers, and by his example inspired them with a resistless enthusiasm. In the midst of the hottest and most destructive fire, his gallant comrades falling around him in every direction, he continued undauntedly to rush on, exclaiming, while he waved his hat in the air, "Follow me, my brave lads, the day is ours." When they earnestly entreated him not to expose himself so much, he replied, "Think not of me, my boys, my life is but that of a common soldier."

After the disasters which succeeded, Sir Samuel Auchmuty embarked on board the Saracen frigate for England, where he arrived on the 12th of September, and brought the first intelli-

gence to Europe of our misfortunes in South America.

Since his return to England Sir Samuel has resided at his seat in Kent, near Feversham, called *Syndale House*. On the 8th of May of the present year he was promoted to the rank of Major-general.

There are few officers in the service who have had the advantage of a more liberal education than Sir Samuel Auchmuty, or who possess a greater fund of military information. In his character there is nothing superficial, volatile, vain-glorious, or self-sufficient, it is marked by the most unassuming modesty, a trait, which ever accompanies true merit, and gives additional lustre to the other qualifications by which he is adorned.

The Municipality of Monte Video, consists of two officers, who are styled *Alcades of the first and second vote*, and six Magistrates composing the Cavildo, or Council of the City. They are generally European Spaniards. Their jurisdiction is not confined to the city, but extends over the whole adjacent territory, and the powers which they exercise are very extensive.

Colonel Browne, of the 40th regiment, who, on the conquest of that place, had been appointed commandant of the city; was, during the absence of the expedition, the highest officer in rank, and commander in chief of the garrison.

As a proof of their esteem for his character, and as a tribute for his generous conduct at the assault of the town, and during his command, the *Illustrious Cavildo* presented him, a few days previous to his departure, with the following farewell Address:

From the Illustrious the CAVILDO, to Colonel GORE BROWNE, Commandant of the City of Monte Video.

Hall of the Capitol, August 27, 1807.

SIR,

The moment in which the armies of his Britannic Majesty,

in pursuance of the treaty between the English and Spanish Generals, are to evacuate this place, is rapidly approaching. We, the Cavildo, as Magistrates of the King of Spain, cannot be supposed, consistently with the duty we owe to our Monarch, not to rejoice at this event. We are, however, anxious to express the deep regret and heartfelt sorrow which your departure occasions. We love, as you do, the Sovereign under whose dominion we were born, and feel the pleasure which true subjects ought, at the approaching absence of those by whom our long peace and tranquillity were first interrupted, and by whom we have lost so many of our fellow citizens and friends. But, at the same time, we should be unworthy of the name of men, were we not to acknowledge our gratitude, and to tender our warmest thanks to you, Sir, and to his Excellency Sir Samuel Auchmuty, the late Commander in Chief, for your generosity, forbearance, and lenity; and for your ceaseless exertions to lessen our sufferings, and to alleviate the miseries of war. The obligations we are under will never be forgotten; and the Cavildo would be guilty of the blackest ingratitude, were they to refrain from publishing to the world, the brilliant and exalted virtues of two such Chiefs.

On the morning of the assault, you, Sir, entered this city with the general command of the troops. At this eventful period, the Cavildo, in awful suspense, were assembled at the Hall of the Capitol, in momentary expectation of death from an enraged and victorious soldiery, who had burst open the doors, and were rushing in with all the fury inspired by success. From the impending bayonet we were rescued by the great exertions of a gallant and amiable officer, * who fortunately came in at the instant, and preserved us at the hazard of his own person.

You, Sir, were presented to us by him, and received from our hands the sword and insignia of justice. You had the generosity to return them immediately to our possession. You requested us to return to our hall, and placed a guard at the gates for our protection. You pledged your word for our safety, and secured our persons from the smallest insult or affront.

Some of the victorious troops, thinking themselves possessed of a right to the property of the citizens, were beginning to plunder. What deeds of violence might have been committed, but for your rectitude and firmness! What but your resolution and virtue could have restrained the fury of incensed soldiers, elated by victory, in the midst of a city, whose inhabi-

* Captain Henry Powell, now of the 5th garrison battalion.

tants were either fugitives or prisoners, whose streets were filled only with the wounded, the dead, and the dying!

Two hours after the assault, this place appeared like a desert. A profound and deathlike silence reigned throughout the city. No object was seen, save alone the scattered bodies of the wounded and the slain.

You, Sir, yourself, even seemed struck with consternation at the solemn scene. You neither suffered the shrill trump to sound, nor the fife, the drum, nor any instrument of martial music. The noise of cannon was still; nothing was heard to interrupt the melancholy and aweful silence of those first dismal hours.

Notwithstanding the inhabitants had fled and abandoned their possessions, all their property and effects, by the justice and magnanimity of their conquerors, remained as secure as if they had been guarded by themselves.

In the first moment of confusion, some trifling excess was committed; but the same day, in the great square of the city, the perpetrators of this excess were publicly chastised with the utmost severity; and alone at the earnest entreaties of some of the Cavildo, were you induced to pardon the lives of two offenders who were condemned to die.

Every article, however small and insignificant, found in the possession of any soldier or sailor, was sent to the Cavildo, that it might be restored, if possible, to its proper owner. Families were treated with the utmost tenderness and respect. The pride of victorious troops, who had just conquered a city, and entered through blood and fire, was in a moment suppressed, and their exultation reduced to quiet and tranquillity. At no time since that period have they caused the least disturbance or vexation to the inhabitants.

Such recollections, while we live, will ever render the remembrance of Sir Samuel Auchmuty and yourself dear to this Cavildo. To both of you we render our most unfeigned and expressive thanks. We earnestly desire to serve you in any manner consistent with our duty, and we shall ever pray, that every happiness and every blessing which your exalted virtue deserves may attend on your steps.

With the utmost respect we have the honour to be,
Sir, your most grateful Servants,

(Signed)

ANTONIO PEREIRA, LORENZO DE VIVAICO,
JOSE MANUEL ORTEGA, JUAN ANTONIO DE VASTILLAS,
ANTONIO DE SAN VINCENTE, FRANCISCO JUANICO.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL VASSALL.

This brave officer, who so gloriously fell at the assault on Monte Video, leading on the brave 38th, was one of the youngest sons of an American loyalist, who remained in his native country to the last moment that he could assist the royal cause. When a further struggle for his king would have been ineffectual, he sought an asylum in England, supporting an honourable independence upon a West India property, which alone remained to him from the revolution. Notwithstanding he had a numerous family, and had suffered great personal losses by his adherence to the mother country, his high and noble spirit would not permit him to receive any remuneration for his sacrifices, contenting himself with receiving back from government the advances which he had made on account of it whilst in America. On being earnestly pressed by Lord George Germain to bring forward his claim, he modestly answered, "It shall never be said that I emigrated from my own country to become a burthen to this." So ardent was his attachment to the best of kings, that his family motto being of the republican form, he would never use it. Such was the father, such the bright example of the gallant Colonel Vassall, who has added another name to the long list of British patriots and British heroes, who have fought and died for their country.

This brave officer commenced his military career in the year 1779, at twelve years of age, and served in the 59th foot at the siege of Gib-

raltar. He was singularly unfortunate in not obtaining promotions commensurate to his abilities, although he purchased "step by step;" and it was not until early in 1800 that he obtained a lieutenant-colonelcy; and in 1801 he took the command of the 38th regiment, and went with it to Ireland, to receive drafts from the British militia. So active, indefatigable, and zealous was he to render this regiment worthy of himself, that although fresh recruited, in the space of a few months, it was ordered by Sir William Meadows on Dublin duty. The General was pleased to declare publicly, that the 38th was not excelled by any regiment in the service, and from that time to its sailing for the Cape, it was considered the "Crack Regiment" of Ireland. The soldiers, their wives and children, looked up to Colonel Vassall as their father.

Colonel Vassall was in the West Indies, and on every expedition (Egypt alone excepted) either with his regiment, or on the staff, during the two last wars. He was field-officer of the night on the memorable 23d of July, in Dublin. His cool determined conduct on that occasion gained the thanks of the Irish government, and the applause of the general officers employed. His firmness on that night preserved his life for a short time longer, to bless his family and do honour to his country. Colonel Vassall had the honour of serving under the separate command of several distinguished generals, among whom were the late Marquis Cornwallis, Sir Ralph Abercrombie, and Beresford, who knew, and justly appreciated his merits.

The 38th regiment composed part of the expedition sent out in 1805 against the Cape of

Good Hope, and after completing the conquest of that settlement, Lieutenant-colonel Vassall proceeded with it to South America. After the re-capture of Buenos Ayres by the Spaniards, arrangements were made for storming Monte Video, under the directions of Colonel Backhouse. When this design was relinquished on account of the impracticability of approaching sufficiently near with the ships, it was determined to attack Maldonado. Four companies of the 38th with some dragoons, headed by Colonel Vassall, landed and advanced towards the town. The enemy soon opened a fire of grape and round shot, which he treated with the utmost contempt, and led on his men to take the guns with the bayonet. The Spaniards were soon driven from them in confusion; about seventy having been bayoneted in the charge, which was continued up the street. At this juncture, Colonel Vassall had a narrow escape from the treachery of a Spanish officer, who fired at him when his generous enemy was in the act of saving his life, but who fortunately missed him, though the miscreant held the pistol so close as to scorch his clothes.

It would be impossible to do greater justice to the scene which closed the career of this excellent man, who fell at the storming of Monte Video, than in the words of his orderly serjeant, in the following letter to an officer of distinction.

"SIR,

"PARDON me for taking this liberty, as the gratitude I owe to my ever-lamented and best friend, Colonel Vassall, obliges me to give you and his friends an authentic account of his last moments;

I being his orderly serjeant, and the chief person to witness his bravery, and the gallant manner in which he acquitted himself in doing his duty, on the unfortunate hour in which he fell. On our approach to the walls, we missed the entrance of the breach; and the grape and musquetry flew so hot as to drive the men in confusion, and numbers of them were about to retreat, but for his exertions. When he observed any of them stoop or flinch, he cried out as loud as possible, "Damn it, men; don't flinch; every bullet has its billet; brush on, follow me, Thirty-eighth!" He rallied them repeatedly in this manner, until he got them inside of the breach, when he immediately directed a party to take possession of the corner battery, next the sea, which was done in a few minutes; and another party, under the command of Major Ross, to advance to the great church; and was advancing himself, when a grape-shot broke his left leg, and as soon as he fell, he cried out, "Push on, my good soldiers; charge them, never mind me, somebody will take me up; 'tis only the loss of a leg in the service." He sat up, helped to tie on a handkerchief to stop the blood; he cried all the time of the action, "I don't care for my leg, if my regiment do their duty, and I hope they will." As soon as the town surrendered, and he heard the men cheer, he joined them, in as great spirits as if nothing had happened, and called to me to have him carried to the head of his regiment. I feel to the heart for his loss to his family; I could wish to have fallen with him, sooner than part with a man who was so good a friend to me. At half past three, on the morning of the 3d, he received his wound, and at one o'clock on the morning of

the 7th he departed, and at eight in the same evening was interred, at the entrance of the great church, with all the military honours.

B. MATTHEWS."

It may be permitted us to add, that the private life of Colonel Vassall was adorned with all the virtues, all the charities. His public life was one unbroken series of devotion to his sovereign and to his country. He loved his family, for he was the best of husbands, the best of parents. He loved his king, his kindred, his country, and his God. If he had one failing, it was too great a diffidence of his own superior abilities.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL WHITELOCKE.

Lieutenant-General Whitelocke is a natural son of the late Bulstrode Whitelocke, Esq. of Marriage Hill, Wiltshire. He was born in Berkshire about the year 1759. He received a good grammar-school education at Marlborough, after which he was placed at Lochee's military academy, in the neighbourhood of Chelsea, where he remained till the year 1777, when he obtained an ensigncy in the 14th regiment of foot. This regiment was then quartered at Chatham barracks, where Mr. Whitelocke formed some of those connections which so materially contributed to his subsequent professional advancement.

In the early part of 1780 the 14th regiment was ordered to the West Indies. It remained some time in the Windward Islands, and then

proceeded to Jamaica. Here Mr. Whitelocke is said to have become acquainted with Miss Lewis, a sister of the late Mr. Lewis, chief clerk of the war-office, to whom he successfully paid his addresses; and about the same time a sister of that lady was led to the altar by Mr. Brownrigg. Rapid promotion was the consequence of so fortunate an union. Mr. Whitelocke was advanced to a majority in the year 1789 or 90, about which period he went to Barbadoes with 7 or 800 convicts, which he formed into a corps. He is deserving of much credit for the regularity to which he soon reduced so unruly a set of men. This corps under his command became shortly distinguished, above all others, for exactness of manœuvres and good discipline. The commencement of the war in 1793 found him Lieutenant-colonel of the 13th regiment of foot, which was then in Jamaica.

Previous to this event, the disturbances in St. Domingo had obliged Sir Adam Williamson, then governor of Jamaica, to be much on the alert, and he was induced to keep the troops in constant readiness for service, as several deputations had been sent to him from the former island, requesting military assistance to quell the insurrection of the negroes. An expedition was at length fitted out, and sailed from Jamaica for St. Domingo. The command of it was given to Lieutenant-colonel Whitelocke, who had a force of about 700 men, under the protection of Commodore Ford. He arrived at Jeremie on the evening of the 19th of September, 1793. The possession of the entire sea-coast of this opulent colony was thought an object of great importance; and to render the measure complete, Co-

lonel Whitelocke determined to exert all his efforts, in unison with the colonists, who were anxious to support the British arms. As the speedy possession of the town of Leogane was deemed important, Colonel Whitelocke was induced to make some primary attempt for its surrender, without waiting for reinforcements; and for this purpose he made an offer of a sum of money to the commanding officer. This, it seems, produced an effect strikingly the reverse of what had been expected.

This French officer, named Laveaux, was of the ancient Noblesse, and though of small fortune, had been long in the royal army, having commanded a troop of dragoons previous to the Revolution. To him an officer was sent with a flag of truce and a letter, with an offer of 5,000*l.* to surrender the place. Laveaux, having read the letter, asked the officer to declare upon his honour, if he knew what it contained; the officer having assured him he did not, Laveaux told him it was well, as otherwise, he would have ordered him to be instantly hanged.

The letter was then read to those who were present, and Laveaux is stated to have given this answer:

"You have endeavoured to dishonour me in the eyes of my troops, by supposing me so vile, so base, so flagitious, as to be capable of betraying my trust for a bribe; this is an affront for which you owe me personal satisfaction, and I demand it in the name of Honour. Wherefore, previous to any general action, I offer you single combat, until one of us fall; leaving you the choice of arms, either on foot or horseback. Your situation, as my enemy on the part of your

country, did not give you a right to offer me a personal insult; and, as a private person, I ask satisfaction for an injury done me by an individual."

Of this spirited reply it does not appear that any notice was taken by Colonel Whitelocke. On the failure of this attempt, it was determined to attack the post of L'Ocul in the neighbourhood of Leogane, which was taken after some resistance; but against a settlement called Bombarde, consisting principally of Germans, the Colonel's detachment, though aided by M. de Charmilly, and other French officers, was not so fortunate. The loss of the British party, on this occasion, amounted to sixteen killed, and twenty-six taken prisoners. Reinforcements from England were now anxiously looked for, of course the joy of our troops, and of the inhabitants, may be conceived on the arrival of the Belliqueux, Irresistible, and Fly, from Martinique, who brought from Mole St. Nicholas the 22d, 23d, and 41st regiments, under command of Brigadier-general White.

As the command of the whole now devolved on the Brigadier, we cannot describe Colonel Whitelocke's share in the succeeding enterprises, better than in the dispatches of the General's words, which certainly pay no small compliment to the Colonel, and conclude in the following terms:

"Allow me, Sir, to express how sensible I am of the zeal and activity which the navy and army have shewn on this interesting occasion, and how uniform their unanimity has ever been. Lieutenant-colonel Whitelocke will have the honour to deliver this dispatch, and there is none

can give more real information of this country; he has commanded here with infinite merit, and acquitted himself on many arduous and trying occasions, in a manner which has contributed to the good of the King's service, and his own honour. He has done the duty of Quarter-master-general, during the expedition: and, for colonial reasons, I gave him the rank of Colonel."

After so long an absence, it was natural for the Colonel to wish for a little domestic happiness and enjoyment; it does not therefore appear that he proceeded again on foreign service; but in consequence of his matrimonial connections, he obtained an appointment upon the home staff. He was soon advanced to the rank of Brigadier-general, and owing to the rapid promotion in the superior ranks of the army, he became successively Major and Lieutenant-general, besides procuring the colonelcy of the 89th regiment of foot.

About the year 1797, General Whitelocke was appointed second in command at Portsmouth, and here he had many opportunities of shewing his parade talents both in the garrison and in the inspection and reviewing of the different volunteer corps in the vicinity. Here too, he preserved a strictness of discipline, and pursued a line of conduct of which many loudly complained. Perhaps, indeed, no officer of rank in the British army was ever so universally spoken of without esteem. In every command and in every situation which he has held, his conduct has been such as to call forth no sentiments of personal regard.

From his official situation at Portsmouth, General Whitelocke was removed in 1800, and ap-

pointed to the command of the depot at Carisbrooke, in the isle of Wight, a post of much exertion and considerable responsibility. This he of course vacated on his appointment in 1807, to the chief command of the British forces in South America—an appointment which has proved a source of equal disgrace to himself and to the military reputation of his country. The details of his proceedings there have already been given in a preceding part of this volume. The gross misconduct and palpable imbecility which he there manifested became, on his return, the subject of a minute investigation before a Court Martial. The judgment of the Court was, that Lieutenant-general Whitelocke be cashiered, and be declared totally unfit and unworthy to serve his Majesty in any military capacity whatever.

Mr. Whitelocke took out with him to America a commission by which, in case of success, he was appointed Governor-general of South America, with a salary of 12,000l. a year, and very extensive powers over the conquered provinces. By his sentence he has lost 5000l. per annum, which he derived from his military appointments. If, however, he possess a soul at all alive to the generous feelings of honour, the privation of pecuniary emolument must be the least severe part of the sentence which he has incurred.

MAJOR-GENERAL LEVISON GOWER,

Son of the late Admiral Gower, was born in 1774. He entered the army at a very early period of life, and before the commencement of the last war served as a subaltern in the Royals at Gibraltar. In the year 1793, he went to the West Indies a Captain in the 9th regiment, with the expedition under Sir Charles Grey, and at first served as Aid-de-camp to General Prescott, but a short time after preferring regimental duty, he got a company in the battalion of grenadiers, in which he served at the memorable siege of Fort Bourbon in Martinique, and at the subsequent service in these islands during his continuance in the West Indies; he had two severe attacks of the yellow fever, and having obtained the rank of Major in the New South Wales corps, he came to England towards the latter end of the year 1794. The excellent regulations of the present Commander in Chief, with regard to a prescribed period of service before the rank of field officer can be obtained, not having been at that time established, Major Gower's friends had no difficulty in purchasing him a Lieutenant-colonelcy in the 63d regiment, which corps he joined on the continent, a few days after his arrival from the West Indies. He had the good fortune to join the day previous to the sortie of Nimeguen, where his regiment gained much credit for the gallantry which was displayed on that occasion under his command.

Colonel Gower remained with his regiment during the remainder of the service on the continent, and returned with the rest of the army in the

summer of 1795. A camp being at this time formed near Southampton, to equip an army for the West Indies, the 63d regiment was ordered there, and embarked in November of the same year, with the other troops under Sir Ralph Abercrombie. The ship in which Colonel Gower and a great part of his regiment were embarked, having succeeded in weathering the gales which obliged the remainder of Admiral Christian's fleet to return, he arrived at Barbadoes early in 1796, and the detachment was immediately sent on to St. Vincent's, which island was in entire possession of the French and Caribs, except a few posts round the town of Kingston. Here Colonel Gower remained in the field until the arrival of General Abercrombie, with about four thousand men from St. Lucia, when the Vigies were invested and stormed on the 10th of June. The French were driven from the two first, and capitulated in the third. Colonel Gower commanded one of the points of attack. After this a force was left in the Carib country, consisting of the 40th, 63d, and some black corps, for reducing these extraordinary people, who had taken post in the mountains. Colonel Gower commanded a district, and remained in the field until the month of December, when the service being closed, he returned to England to be married to a young lady, the daughter of Mr. Brooke, of Suffolk, to whom he had been engaged before his embarkation for the West Indies. On his arrival in England, Colonel Gower became a member of Parliament for a borough in Cornwall. He returned to the West Indies to join his regiment at Jamaica in the summer of 1797. He shortly came home again and exchanged into the Cold-

stream Guards, with which corps he went to Ireland.

In 1799, he accompanied the guards to Holland, and commanded some flank companies in the actions which took place upon that service, where he is said to have gained much credit.

Colonel Gower remained in the Guards until he got one of the balloting reserve, when he was appointed a Brigadier-general on the staff.

He next got the rank of Major-general, and commanded a brigade at Bracbourne Lees, in Kent.

When, the late Lieutenant-general, Whitelocke received the appointment of Commander in Chief of the expedition to South America, Major-general Gower was appointed second in command.

COLONEL BACKHOUSE.

Colonel Backhouse commenced his military career during the American war under Major-general, afterwards the late Sir John Vaughan, in the West Indies, and from that period has been for the most part, employed upon foreign service.

Being on his way to the East Indies, in command of the 47th regiment, he was early in the month of August 1806, detained by Sir David Baird at the Cape of Good Hope, and immediately sent, with the regiment under his command, as part of the reinforcement intended to assist General Beresford in South America.

On his arrival in the Rio de la Plata, he had the mortification to find that officer, together with

the troops he commanded, had been overpowered by the superiority of the enemy's numbers, and made prisoners of war to the Spaniards. By this unlooked-for event, he became the senior officer at the head of a small force (consisting of three squadrons of dismounted dragoons, the 38th, 47th, and a company of the 54th regiment, not in the whole exceeding 1900 men) without artillery, and without any specific instructions, in a trying situation.

In co-operation with Sir Home Popham, who commanded the squadron in the river Plate, an idea was formed of assaulting and endeavouring to carry the town of Monte Video on the side bounded by the river; but the ships not being able to come near enough to silence the batteries so as to permit the troops to enter, the project was given up.

For the troops to remain much longer in transports, when many had been several months at sea, and without the opportunity of procuring refreshments, might have been attended with unhealthy and perhaps serious consequences. He therefore formed the resolution of immediately making himself master of some position in the enemy's country, where he might keep a communication open with the shipping, command supplies for his men, endeavour to mount his cavalry, and, if possible, to retain it until he could receive instructions from the Cape, or a reinforcement might chance to arrive from Europe.

Maldonado appearing the most eligible position for these purposes, he directly proceeded with Sir Home Popham, in the Diadem, and with such of the troops (a part of the 38th regiment,

the 54th light company, and a few of the dismounted dragoons) as could be conveyed in that ship and a frigate, landed without loss of time on the evening of the 29th of October, crossed the Sand-hills, and, after a fruitless opposition from the enemy, in which they lost numbers of their men together with their guns, he made good his position, which he had the fortune to maintain, amid many difficulties, in the face of the enemy, with whom he had mostly to fight for his supplies until the arrival of Sir Samuel Auchmuty, with the troops from England in the month of January following.

By this means, in consequence of Colonel Backhouse not having evacuated the country, Sir Samuel's force became strong enough immediately to proceed to the attack and conquest of Monte Video.

After the arrival of Sir Samuel, Colonel Backhouse could only act in his capacity as commanding the 47th regiment, but he had the satisfaction to find that the measures he had pursued were not only approved of by Sir Samuel Auchmuty, whose thanks he received in public orders, but were also honoured with the express approbation of his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL KINGTON.

THE following anecdotes relate to the concluding period of the life of the gallant Lieutenant-colonel Kington of the 6th regiment of

dragoon guards or carabineers, and to the humane treatment he experienced from the Spanish officers:

Lieutenant-colonel Kington having advanced a considerable way into the town of Buenos Ayres, on the morning of the 5th of July 1787, received a musket ball through his right leg, which occasioned him to fall while cheering and animating his regiment to follow him, and endeavour to take two pieces of cannon opposed to them in the centre of the street. Refusing any assistance from his men to carry him off, he desired they would march forward and do their duty under the brave and much lamented Captain Burrell, who also received a mortal wound. In the mean time, the Colonel contrived to remove from the centre into one of the cross-streets, and there remained till the carabineers had been ordered to retreat, when the enemy advanced, and began to use him in a most brutal manner—they were upon the point of dispatching him with their bayonets, had not an old Spaniard rushed from his house, and throwing his cloak over the Colonel, and his person between him and his countrymen, besought them to spare his life, and not take advantage of a fallen foe.

The old man then dragged him into his house, and having bound up his wound, laid him on his own bed, and watched him during the day and night with the tenderness of a parent; he had him conveyed on the 6th, to the citadel, where General Liniers ordered every possible attention to be paid to his wounded prisoner.—The General told the Colonel, that Mrs. O'Gormon, a relation of his, had offered to accom-

modate one of the wounded officers at her own house, and requested he might be removed to her dwelling, where he would have every possible care taken of his wound. In this hospitable mansion the Colonel lay seventeen days before his dissolution, receiving from the hands of his kind hostess and her relations every attention that humanity could dictate. General Liniers attended him daily, and visited him always before he retired to rest; he shewed as much interest for the Colonel's safety as he could have done for his own son in a similar situation.

The old Spaniard was constant in his enquiries concerning the Colonel's wound, and though pressed by him to receive a sum of money for his great humanity and tenderness, he could not be prevailed upon to accept the least pecuniary reward; though by no means in affluent circumstances.

The generous behaviour of General Liniers continued after the Colonel's decease, on the 22d of July; he directed the body to be removed to the Viceroy's palace, and there to lie in state till the interment; the funeral was conducted after the English manner; General Liniers and all the principal military officers, and civil magistrates attended, with four regiments of infantry to fire over the grave; and a tablet, with a suitable inscription, was ordered, by the General, to be placed over the remains of the deceased.

MAJOR TROTTER.

Major Trotter, of the 83d regiment, was a nephew of the late Bishop of Down. He naturally possessed quick parts, which were early improved by his being placed at Woolwich, where he lived in the house of Mr. Bonnycastle, and received an excellent military education at that seminary. On leaving Woolwich he commenced his military career in the 37th regiment, in which he had obtained an ensigncy, and was in all the actions in Flanders, where this corps distinguished itself early in 1794. He was soon promoted to a lieutenancy in the 88th regiment, with which he saw a great variety of service during the rest of the campaign on the continent, in the West Indies, in the East Indies, and in Egypt. Having attained the rank of captain, he commanded the grenadier company at St. Lucia, where he attracted the notice of the gallant veteran Sir Ralph Abercrombie, and was the favourite of Lieutenant-general M'Donald, who then commanded the flank companies of the army.

Captain Trotter afterwards proceeded with his regiment to India, and accompanied the Indian expedition to Egypt, where his merit attracted the notice of his superiors, and he was selected by General Beresford to be his major of brigade.

On the commencement of the present war, that officer being placed on the staff in Ireland, appointed Captain Trotter his brigade-major. From that situation he was promoted to a majority in the 83d, with which he went on the expedition against the Cape of Good Hope; and as acting assistant Adjutant-general, distinguished himself

in such a manner at the attack and defeat of the Dutch army as to merit the public thanks of Sir David Baird, the commander in chief.

When in consequence of the capture of Buenos Ayres by the troops under his command, Brigadier-general Beresford applied to Sir David Baird for a reinforcement from the Cape, he requested that Major Trotter might be sent to act under him in the capacity of Deputy-adjutant General. Sir David complied with his request; and Major Trotter, with Lieutenant-colonel Brownrigg as Deputy Quarter-master General, accompanied Colonel Vassall with the first division of the reinforcements that sailed from the Cape of Good Hope. But before their arrival in the Plata, General Beresford, with the whole of his force, had been compelled to surrender to the Spaniards.

Colonel Backhouse, however, soon after arriving with the remainder of the reinforcement, and assuming the chief command of the forces then collected, confirmed Major Trotter in the situation of Deputy Adjutant General to those forces, with directions to continue as such until future orders. Colonel Backhouse having determined upon taking up a position in the enemy's country at the town of Maldonado, Major Trotter landed with him in the vicinity of that post, and in the attack upon the enemy, obtained his permission to lead one of the divisions of the grenadiers of the 38th regiment, with which the enemy's guns were carried, and captured at the point of the bayonet.

During the arduous period that the small force under Colonel Backhouse held possession of Maldonado, Major Trotter was actively and

zealously employed in his situation. On the arrival of Sir Samuel Auchmuty, with the additional troops under his command from England, Major Trotter, in consequence of a Deputy Adjutant General having come out attached to Sir Samuel Auchmuty's forces, ceased to continue any longer in that capacity. Sir Samuel, however, offered to appoint him an assistant in the Quarter Master General's department, which he declined; but, upon the light companies of the respective regiments being formed into a battalion, he readily accepted the situation of Major to that battalion; the command of which was given to Lieutenant-colonel Brownrigg, who had also ceased to hold his staff situation as Deputy Quarter-master General.

In an action during a sortie made by the enemy from Monte Video, Major Trotter had a horse shot under him, and received a wound in the hand, but was not thereby prevented from leading the light brigade, in conjunction with his brave friend Colonel Brownrigg, on the desperate service of storming the breach of that fortress.

Major Trotter's conduct on this occasion was also mentioned in the highest terms in the official dispatch, and the gallant and lamented Colonel Brownrigg, his friend and companion in arms and in danger, his kind attention to whom, in his last moments, was no less remarkable than his adherence and co-operation in battle, made it a last request to his uncle, General Brownrigg, that he should use all his interest to get him promoted to a Lieutenant-colonelcy. To this request General Brownrigg paid all the attention to which it was entitled; and there is

no doubt that, if Major Trotter had lived, the illustrious person at the head of the army would have taken an early opportunity of promoting him. In a subsequent skirmish with a party of Spaniards, in the vicinity of Colonia, Major Trotter received a severe wound through the body. The close of his life, as described in the narrative of the attack on Buenos Ayes, was consistent with the eagerness with which he always led his followers to the post of honour.

The premature fate of this gallant officer is to every friend to his country a subject of poignant regret. His conduct throughout the whole of his professional career had raised the highest expectations of his future glory; and it may with truth be asserted, that he has not left behind him, in the British army, an officer of more military zeal, or more determined courage.

FINIS.

ERRATA.

Page 38, Line 5, *for* ply *read* play.
—— 163, —— 12, *for* 98th regiment *read* 95th regiment.
—— 193, —— 17, *dele* Captain Cross, *and insert* Lieutenant-Colonel Darock.
——, —— 20, *dele* Sir Samuel Auchmuty *and insert* Lieutenant-colonel Sir Edward Butler.
N. B. Sir Samuel Auchmuty *commanded the brigade of which the* 87th regiment *formed a part.*
—— 230, —— 9, *It was omitted to mention that the detachment here spoken of was led by the brave* Captain Elvington, *of the* 47th regiment, *who distinguished himself so highly at the storming of* Monte Video.
—— 250, —— 14, *for* General Auckland *read* General Ackland.
—— 273, —— 2 from the bottom, *for* eldest *read* youngest.
—— 274, —— 5, eldest *read* youngest.
——, —— 6, merchant *read* lawyer.

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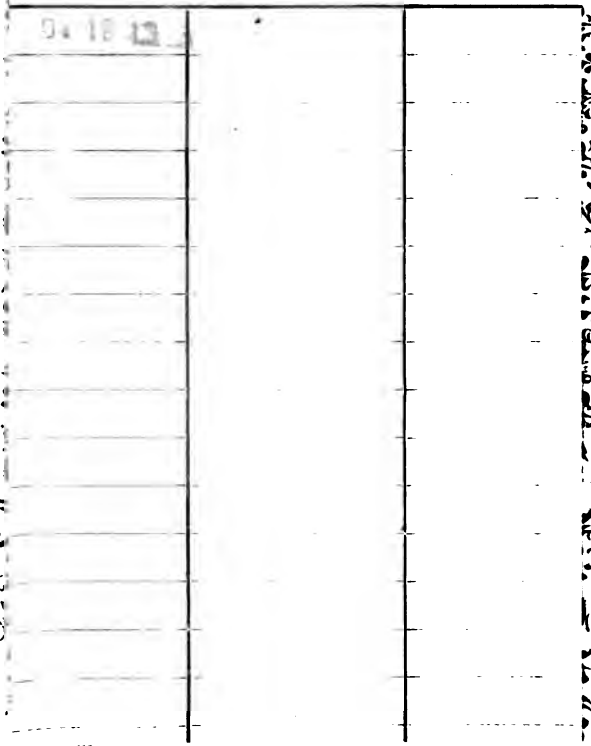

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